

'U.S. ready to sign arms treaty'

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State George Shultz said on Friday ahead of a meeting with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze that Washington was prepared to sign a pact abolishing medium-range nuclear missiles. But he accused Moscow of posing new obstacles to an arms agreement, such as the demand by Soviet arms adviser Viktor Karpov on Thursday that Washington destroy Pershing-1A missile warheads on U.S. territory as well as in West Germany. "The Soviets keep adding new things... and the question is whether or not they want to move forward," Mr. Shultz said in reference to a proposed treaty scrapping all U.S. and Soviet intermediate-range nuclear forces. In Bonn, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky, accusing the United States of stalling in the Geneva arms talks, said on Friday considerable obstacles remained in the path of a U.S.-Soviet missile deal. Mr. Petrovsky, in Bonn for two days of talks, said U.S. negotiators were misinterpreting the essence of the "double zero option" — the planned accord which would scrap both countries' medium and shorter-range nuclear missiles. Such a deal was possible this year, Mr. Petrovsky told a news conference. But he added: "Considerable problems lie ahead."

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Chun meets Masri, receives message

SEOUL (Petra) — South Korean President Chun Doo Hwan received here Friday Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, who conveyed to the president a message from His Majesty King Hussein dealing with the latest developments in the Middle East. The message also contained the King's greetings and wishes of further prosperity for the South Korean people. Mr. Masri also conferred with the South Korean prime minister and reviewed Jordanian-South Korean relations and bilateral cooperation. Mr. Masri also met with South Korea's foreign minister to discuss means of bolstering relations between the two countries and Jordan's continued efforts to find a lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict through an international Middle East peace conference. Mr. Masri also discussed with the South Korean leaders the Iran-Iraq war and current efforts to end the seven-year-old conflict in the Gulf. Mr. Masri arrived in Seoul Thursday evening on a three-day visit to South Korea after winding up a visit to China. During a meeting in Peking, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang told Mr. Masri that China was willing to work with the Arab states to ease tension in the Gulf.

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Kanaan returns from Istanbul

AMMAN (Petra) — Planning Minister Taher Kanaan returned home Friday from Istanbul where he took part in a week-long meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) standing committee for economic and commercial cooperation. In an arrival statement Dr. Kanaan said the meetings discussed a number of issues designed to push the pace of Islamic economic and commercial cooperation. He added the committee recommended that a number of recommendations drawn up by the Islamic Bank on financial long-term projects be implemented.

Physicists elect officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Physicists Association Friday elected a new administrative committee for a term of two years. The newly elected committee comprises of Tayseer Subhi (president), Saleh Qteishat (vice president), Fares Al Tawil (treasurer), Fouad Taffal Ibrahim Al Khatib, Sira Al Labadi and Muna Mikhayir. Jamal Al Dasuqi and Shadia Ikheims were elected as stand by members.

Mubarak visits Oman

MUSCAT (AP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak paid an unscheduled visit to Oman Friday for a "close quarters" look at the war-impacted Gulf region, his aides reported. The Egyptian leader, on an overnight private stay on his way home from Ethiopia, was received in Salalah by Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id. Egypt's state information service director, Mamdouh Al-Bitar, who was accompanying Mr. Mubarak, was quoted by Cairo's state-run news agency MENA as saying the president wished to have a look at the Gulf situation "at close quarters."

OPEC chief to leave post

KUWAIT (AP) — Ali Atiq, the Libyan long-time first secretary-general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), has resigned and is leaving at the end of September, an OPEC spokesman announced Friday. Mr. Atiq had submitted his resignation to the OPEC semi-annual conference in Syria June 10. But this was the first official announcement that he was determined to leave. There has been no official explanation of Mr. Atiq's decision. OPEC sources said however his resignation was prompted by the drastic cut in the organisation's budget which has been slashed by 65 per cent, from 3.3 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$11.5 million) in 1983, to less than two million dinars (\$7 million).

Israel jails 3 army reservists

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Israeli army imprisoned three reserve soldiers who refused for "reasons of conscience" to serve in the occupied West Bank, a wife of one of the soldiers said Friday. The soldiers are members of Yesh Gvul, a group of conscientious objectors to Israel's 20-year occupation of Gaza and the West Bank. "My husband thinks the Palestinian people have a right to their own state," Yael Greenberg said in an interview. "He doesn't want to take part in the occupation. He doesn't feel right about it."

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Perez de Cuellar begins Gulf peace mission in Tehran

Iran 'ready to listen' to U.N. chief • Soviets reject military action against Iran but will support arms embargo
• Shultz expects Iranian refusal to accept 598

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Tehran Friday on the first leg of a peace mission seeking to end the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the Peruvian diplomat's jet landed at Mehrabad airport at 7.20 p.m. (1550 GMT) after a flight from Paris.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar was greeted by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and senior officials, IRNA said.

The agency gave no other details. But before leaving Paris after an overnight stop, Mr. Perez de

Cuellar said he was "neither pessimistic nor optimistic, but realistic" about the prospects of persuading Iran to accept the U.N. Security Council's July 20 resolution calling for a ceasefire.

IRNA said that Mr. Perez de Cuellar was in Iran "for talks on (the) Iran-Iraq war and U.N. Security Council Resolution 598."

The July 20 resolution called for an immediate ceasefire in the

war and the secretary general will go on to Baghdad from Tehran in a bid to implement it.

Iraq has said it would accept the resolution if Iran did the same. Iranian leaders have said there were positive and negative aspects to the U.N. call, but have demanded that Iraq be branded the "aggressor" in the war before a ceasefire is agreed.

In Tehran, Mr. Perez de Cuellar is expected to spend two days meeting with Iranian President Ali Khamenei, Foreign Minister Velayati, Parliament Speaker Hashemi Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Hussein Musavi.

The diplomat said Friday he was not planning to meet with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Islamic republic's revolution-

ary patriarch.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he had requested a joint meeting with Iran's leaders, but that "they might have difficulties" with such a session.

He plans to meet in Baghdad with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

The U.N. chief, who was scheduled to fly on to Baghdad Monday, said in Paris he would "sound out the two parties on the putting into effect of the different points of Resolution 598."

Several hours before Mr. Perez de Cuellar landed, Mr. Khamenei told worshippers at a prayer session in Tehran University that the

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Iraq and Libya said on verge of announcing resumption of full ties

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Iraq and Libya are on the verge of announcing resumption of full diplomatic relations after a visit to Baghdad last week by the Libyan foreign minister, according to reports from the Gulf.

The Doha-based Qatari News Agency reported in a dispatch from Dubai on Friday that Tripoli and Baghdad were expected to name their respective ambassadors to each other. The agency attributed the report to well-placed Kuwaiti sources.

Press reports in Dubai said Friday that Libya was expected to name the director of its Foreign Ministry's Political Department, Mr. Husni Saleh Al Mudeer — a

former Libyan ambassador to Kuwait — as its ambassador in Baghdad.

The reports came after Iraq and Libya issued a joint statement on Thursday indicating an end to their two-year-old feud and of Libya's support for Iraq in the Iran-Iraq war.

The statement declared that the continuation of the war "represents a dangerous threat to peace in the region and wastes the Arab and Islamic energies," reported the Iraqi News Agency (INA).

The two states also agreed to abide by the Arab League Charter, which opposes aggression against the territory or interests of any Arab state, or interference in its internal affairs.

The communiqué made no mention of any restoration of

diplomatic relations between the two countries, severed by Baghdad in February 1985 after Tripoli and Tehran forged an alliance.

Earlier, authoritative Arab sources in Kuwait, where Mr. Talhi passed through on his way home, told reporters Iraq and Libya had agreed to reforge ties.

The communiqué said Iraq and Libya reiterated the Arab League call for Tehran to accept the July 20 U.N. Security Council ceasefire call.

Iraq has said it will accept the call if Iran does too. Iran has said it wants the council to declare Iraq the "aggressor" in the conflict.

Mr. Talhi was the first top Libyan official to make a formal visit to Iraq since relations were

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Palestinians have right to homeland, Pope tells U.S. Jews

MIAMI (Agencies) — Pope John Paul II, in a long-awaited meeting with American Jewish leaders, said the Palestinian people had a right to homeland as any other civil nation.

The Pope, on the second day of a visit to the U.S., also defended his predecessor pontiffs against accusations that they were silent about the treatment of Jews by Nazis during World War II.

Jews have a right to a homeland "as does any civil nation," but that right also "applies to the Palestinian people, so many of whom remain homeless and refugees," the Pope said.

Meeting 200 Jewish leaders on the second day of a nine-day U.S. visit, he praised Pope Pius XII, whose World War II record in dealing with the Nazi war crimes has been debated by historians.

While the Pope said the Palestinians had a right to a homeland, he made no mention of whether the Vatican would change its position of refusing to recognise Israel.

Before recognising Israel, the Vatican wants an agreement protecting the international status of Jerusalem and preserving the holy places for Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

It also says there must be a solution to the Palestinian problem.

The Pope's forthright defence of his predecessor was the latest sign that he intends to confront head-on issues troubling the church in the United States.

Battles erupt in Shatila camp

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Explosions from rocket and machinegun fire rocked Beirut's Shatila Palestinian refugee camp on Friday in the first fighting there since Syrian troops deployed around the camp in April.

Local militia stations and the Amal militia said the clashes were between fighters backed by Syria and others loyal to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who has major influence in the camp.

But Palestinian sources accused Amal militiamen of firing into the camp, a battered 200-metre square breezeblock and concrete settlement.

Israelis plant mines

In another development, security sources quoted by Reuters said

Israeli gunboats had started widespread mining of South Lebanon's coastal waters, dropping about 100 mines from Tyre to the Israeli border.

Tyre fishermen netted one of the mines laid on Wednesday and blew it up with dynamite on the shore, witnesses told Reuters.

The mine, said to similar to those found in the Gulf, weighed 70 kilograms and blew a crater 20 metres wide and two metres deep in the beach.

The independent Al Nahar newspaper said Israel had informed the Amal militia that its navy would blockade all Lebanese ports from Beirut to Tyre if Amal did not release an Israeli airman captured by the militia in October.

Al Nahar did not say how

Israel passed its message to Amal, the biggest militia in South Lebanon.

Amal leader Nabih Berri in a speech earlier this month repeated his offer to exchange the Israeli officer for Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails.

Amal controls three ports along the 99-kilometre Mediterranean coast between Beirut and the Israeli border.

The Israeli pilot was captured by Amal last Oct. 16 after Palestinians shot down his F-4E Phantom jet fighter with a surface-to-air missile during a bombing raid against Palestinian camps in South Lebanon.

Israel denied that it had planted mines in the area.

Honecker describes visit to W. Germany as success

MUNICH (R) — East German leader Erich Honecker said on Friday his unprecedented five-day visit to West Germany was a success for common sense and realism.

Mr. Honecker, the first leader of Communist East Germany to visit West Germany, wound up his programme with a visit to the site of the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau.

He said in a statement that there was still much room to forge closer ties.

"The results and agreements mark a success for policies of common sense and realism, a gain for people and for peace... the GDR (East Germany) will not lack the necessary good will and level-headedness for future progress," he said.

Earlier, Mr. Honecker laid a wreath to the victims of Nazi persecution at Dachau.

Mr. Honecker, 75, spent 10 years in a Nazi prison after being arrested for underground Com-

munist activities. In decades of cold war tension between the two states, East Berlin often accused Bonn of allowing former Nazis to go unpunished.

The atmosphere of Mr. Honecker's visit this week reflected a general relaxation in relations.

He touched on one of the most sensitive issues in East-West German relations on Thursday when he suggested the fortified border between the two states could one day become less of a barrier to human contact.

"I believe that if we act together in the spirit of the communiqué agreed in Bonn... then the day will come when borders no longer divide us but unite us, as the border between the German Democratic Republic and Poland," he said.

The mass-circulation newspaper Bild described the comment, made at a reception for old friends in Mr. Honecker's birthplace of Neunkirchen, as sensational.

Moscow cautious over prospects for arms pact

MOSCOW (R) — Senior Soviet officials, expressing doubts over the United States' commitment to a long-term disarmament process, are in cautious mood on the eve of a new round of top-level superpower contacts next week.

The officials, including a senior adviser to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Foreign Ministry control specialists, say serious problems remain in the way of an accord to eliminate intermediate nuclear weapons (INF).

They suggest that even the conclusion of an agreement — covering land-based missiles with ranges of from 500 to 5,000 kilometres — would not automatically clear the way for a summit between Mr. Gorbachev and President Ronald Reagan.

"We remain far from convinced that for Washington an INF treaty would not be the end of the road. For us, it should be the beginning," a well-placed Soviet insider said.

The Moscow officials say arms control will be the focus of three days of talks Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will have with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, and of a brief meeting with Mr. Reagan, in Washington from Sept. 15 to 17.

However, optimism in Moscow earlier in the summer that progress towards better relations between the two powers was in sight has faded dramatically in the past two weeks.

Speeches by Mr. Reagan at the end of August, in which he called for Soviet internal changes as the price for closer links which were described by one Moscow commentator as a resumption of his "crusade against communism," helped cause the mood switch.

Georgy Arbatov, head of Moscow's think-tank U.S.A. Institute, said Mr. Reagan's comments "were remarkably for a high-intensity anti-Soviet tone of the sort we had recently been out of the habit of hearing."

Shultz and Shevardnadze to discuss Gulf war, page 2

King and Thatcher review Gulf developments and Mideast situation

LONDON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Friday made a comprehensive review of the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war and the Middle East crisis.

According to British sources quoted by news agencies, the two leaders had "identical viewpoints" over the need to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 on ending the almost seven-year-old Gulf war.

Reporting on the London meeting, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said King Hussein and Mrs. Thatcher also covered prospects for the proposed international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mrs. Thatcher expressed appreciation for the King's thorough and valuable review on the latest developments in the Middle East, Petra said. The meeting was described by various news agencies as "comprehensive."

King Hussein, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid



Ibn Shaker arrived here on Thursday on a private visit.

British television networks and newspapers have given great attention to the King's visit to Britain and to his talks with Mrs. Thatcher, in view of the situation in the Gulf, and international and Arab efforts towards ending the Iran-Iraq war.

After their stay in Britain, King Hussein and Queen Noor will pay a two-day state visit to Switzerland, next Thursday. It will be

their first state visit to Switzerland.

A Royal Palace announcement in Amman said Thursday during his stay there, King Hussein would discuss the Gulf conflict and the Middle East situation with Swiss President and Foreign Minister Pierre Aubert and other government officials.

Prior to King Hussein's departure on Thursday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent.

Controversy grows over Arafat 'message' to Israeli leaders

Foreign ministry official says 3-point programme received but no one is taking it seriously. Shamir refuses to see Biton but aide says Arafat proposal is objectionable and not new. • PLO: No message and no direct talks outside international parley • Biton dismisses PLO denial, saying Arafat offered talks after 3 conditions are met

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has offered a three-point programme for negotiations with Israel including an end to hostilities, mutual recognition and a suspension of settlement-building, an Israeli foreign ministry official said Friday.

Communist Party legislator Charlie Biton conveyed the message to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's spokesman, Yossi Ahimeir, and Foreign Minister

Shimon Peres' political adviser, Nimrod Novick.

Mr. Shamir refused to meet with Mr. Biton after hearing Mr. Arafat's message, Ahimeir told AP.

"He said there's nothing new in the proposal," Ahimeir said. "It is meant to pave the way for a Palestinian state which Israel totally opposes."

A foreign ministry official said Mr. Peres would meet Mr. Biton but would not accept a message from Mr. Arafat.

"I don't think anyone, even in the PLO, is taking this seriously," said the official on condition of anonymity.

The PLO has denied Mr. Arafat had sent a message through Mr. Biton in a statement issued Thursday from its headquarters in Tunis.

"There is no message from Arafat through any member of the Israeli parliament," spokesman Ahmad Abdul Raham said.

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Benvenisti: Israel is on its way to becoming a police state

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel has begun linking military offices by computer to tighten police surveillance over Palestinians in the occupied territories, an Israeli researcher said Friday.

At a news conference introducing his annual study on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Meron Benvenisti called the new computer system "something that can develop into the ultimate police state."

By pooling data on everything from property taxes to political attitudes, Israeli clerks "can with just the push of button deny someone a motor vehicle license for political reasons," said Mr. Benvenisti, whose studies are funded by the U.S. Ford and Rockefeller foundations.

Mr. Benvenisti said the new computer system was a latest example of how Israel was tightening its grip on the occupied territories with U.S. backing. He called it "a sure recipe for eternal strife" in the Middle East.

Israel began installing the \$8.5 million system in August. It will take five years to complete, Mr. Benvenisti and military officials said.

A senior Israeli army official denied in an interview with AP that the computers would be used to increase military control of the Palestinians. He said the system would instead "help" Arabs living under Israeli occupation by improving government services.

But Mr. Benvenisti said the system amounted to "centralised population control" in the occupied territories.

The 87-page report also documents increased Israeli economic repression in the West Bank and Gaza through the failure to invest all taxes paid by Palestinians in services in their towns and villages.

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"The Palestinians paid an \$80

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Grenade hurled at Israelis

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli troops imposed a curfew around the military administration building in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah on Thursday after a hand grenade exploded nearby, an army spokesman said.

The grenade, hurled at the building, caused no injuries or damage.

A driver was slightly injured near Nablus when a stone was thrown at his military vehicle. One arrest was made.

Earlier, Israeli troops shot and wounded a 75-year-old Palestinian woman as she sat outside the entrance to her home in the occupied Gaza Strip, the army and a hospital spokesman said.

Chad and Libya declare truce

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad and Libya declared a truce on Friday in their war over a strip of desert in their border area.

The ceasefire, prompted by appeals from the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), leaves Libya in possession of Aouzou, the administrative centre of the barren, disputed region. Chad captured the town on Aug. 8 but lost it again 20 days later.

The truce was proclaimed first and in broader terms by Chad, which said in a statement that it accepted the OAU call for a ceasefire, effective on Friday morning.

Libya, speaking through its official news agency, JANA, said a few hours later that in response to calls from the OAU it would "stop all its air raids inside Chadian territory."

Because Libya insists that it owns the Aouzou strip, the Tripoli announcement did not promise to stop fighting inside the disputed zone. But, with Libya holding Aouzou, it seemed that if both sides honoured their pledges fighting would stop.

Both sides fixed the ceasefire for 1000 GMT — 11 a.m. in N'djamena and noon in Tripoli, which, as JANA pointed out, was

the hour of Friday prayers.

Chad requested an urgent meeting of an OAU committee set up to try to settle the territorial quarrel.

It said the ceasefire would become meaningless unless it led to a quick and definite solution.

Muddle in the 1930s over a treaty between France and Italy, the colonial powers in the area, left the independent states which followed them at odds over the ownership of 114,000 square kilometres of remote desert.

U.K. to protect Dutch minesweepers in Gulf

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain has agreed to protect two Dutch minesweepers being sent to the Gulf, the Defence Ministry said on Friday.

"If they wish to operate in the same area as Britain's minesweepers we will provide the fire-power to protect them if it is necessary and they desire it," a spokesman told Reuters.

"The Dutch will benefit from the level of protection available to our own minesweepers," he said.

The Dutch parliament on Thursday approved the government's decision to send two minesweepers to the Gulf to join Western efforts to keep its waters open for international shipping.

The British spokesman said the Defence Ministry would also discuss protection for the minesweeping force Belgium plans to send to the Gulf next week.

"But any announcement on whether we are providing protection for them would come first from the Belgians," he said.

Britain will hold talks soon with the French navy on giving it logistical help in the Gulf region, he added.

Naval teams from The Netherlands and Belgium met Defence Ministry officials in London on Thursday to discuss the British Royal Navy's co-ordinating role in the Gulf, the spokesman said.

He said the three countries agreed to pool information about the type of mines discovered, share minesweeping tasks and that Britain would provide the Dutch and Belgian forces with logistical support.

Defence officials planned to hold similar talks with French naval officials, the spokesman said.

Three French minesweepers have been deployed to operate

outside the Gulf.

Four British Hunt class minesweepers and a support ship are due to reach the Gulf in mid-September where a British naval force is already protecting British merchant ships.

Italian Premier Giovanni Goria on Thursday said that his nation's naval task force in the Gulf would protect only Italian ships, and would not be involved in any multinational naval operations.

Speaking after talks here with Dutch Premier Ruud Lubbers, Mr. Goria told reporters that "we're looking forward to any (European) agreement on the Gulf issue, but it has so far not been achieved."

Asked whether the Italian naval task force would assist Dutch mine hunters in case of an attack in the Gulf, the Italian government leader said "we are going (to the Gulf) to protect our own ships."

On Monday, the Dutch government announced it was to dispatch two mine hunters to the Gulf to assist in keeping open the vital international oil shipping lanes.

In his talks with Mr. Lubbers, Mr. Goria, who was accompanied by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, made no commitment to provide similar assistance.

"If a naval ship of another nation is attacked, Italy's actions would depend on the situation," Mr. Goria said. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Goria added that "the most important thing is not a common operational structure, but a common policy" to restore unhindered commercial naviga-

tion in the Gulf and to end the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

And he noted that Italy "fully supports" any U.N. effort to end hostilities in the Gulf.

Last week, Mr. Goria's government announced it would send a naval task force to the Gulf, and late Wednesday night, the Italian parliament supported that decision.

The announcement followed an Iranian machine gun attack on an Italian container ship last week.

No sailing date has so far been set for the Italian Task Force.

The Dutch decision to join British, French and American naval forces currently deployed in the Gulf followed weeks of diplomatic manoeuvres by The Netherlands among its Western European allies aimed at a joint mine-clearing operation in the area.

In Islamabad, Pakistan, Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans said Thursday his government will discuss sending mine sweepers to the Gulf in a special cabinet meeting Tuesday.

"We will make a careful review of the current Gulf situation and take suitable decisions," Mr. Tindemans said during a news conference at the end of a three-day visit to Pakistan.

He said the cabinet was originally scheduled to meet Friday, but postponed their meeting until his return.

"Ideally, the minesweeping operation should have been organised by the United Nations, but it has not been done," he said.

"We did not want to take a decision regarding sending the ships to the Gulf on the NATO platform because then it may have activated the Warsaw Pact, turning the whole thing into an East-West question," the foreign minister said.

'Soviets, U.S. protest Libyan mine shipment to Iran'

NEW YORK (R) — The United States and the Soviet Union have sent separate protest notes to Libya in an effort to stop the shipment of Soviet-made mines from Libya to Iran, the New York Times reported Friday.

The paper quoted administration officials as saying the United States informed the Soviets that Libya was preparing to swap the sophisticated mines in return for chemical weapons for its war against Chad.

The Soviet government said it opposed the unauthorised transfer of their military hardware and told the United States it had made its opposition known to Libya, the paper said.

The State Department said it had no comment on the report. The introduction of new, more dangerous mines could further disrupt shipping in the volatile Gulf region and hamper minesweeping operations now under way by several nations, including the United States and Britain.

The Soviet action came despite Moscow's close military ties to Tripoli, a major arms client and host to about 5,000 Soviet Bloc military advisers.

The mines believed supplied by the Libyans are bottom-dwelling acoustic weapons, which are harder to detect than those Iran is already believed to have planted in the Gulf.

Shultz, Shevardnadze to discuss Gulf war

GENEVA (R) — Soviet and U.S. officials discussed the Gulf war on Friday to help prepare for talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz next week, a U.S. spokesman said.

At their Sept. 15-17 meeting in Washington, Mr. Shultz and Mr. Shevardnadze will concentrate on efforts to reach an agreement abolishing medium-range nuclear missiles and will examine issues such as the Gulf and Afghanistan.

Edward Djerejian, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state, met Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Alekseyev at the Soviet mission in Geneva on Friday to exchange views on the Gulf. They had five hours of talks on Afghanistan on Thursday.

"I don't think there have been any great breakthroughs," the U.S. spokesman said.

Washington and Moscow joined forces on July 20 to push through the U.N. Security Council a resolution demanding a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq. Iraq said it would comply if Iran agreed to do so but Tehran has yet to respond.

U.S. aide: China, Soviets would back Iran embargo

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States is confident of support from the Soviet Union and China in imposing a worldwide arms embargo against Iran if it does not agree to a ceasefire in the Gulf, a senior State Department official says.

"I think there are prospects of getting both," the official said Thursday night. "It is very hard to veto."

A Soviet ally, Bulgaria, and China are among Iran's main arms suppliers.

But the official, who spoke with wire service reporters under rules of anonymity, said, "it would be awkward both for Moscow and Peking to cast a veto."

He said a sanctions resolution would pass in the United Nations Security Council, but possibly not by unanimous vote.

The State Department official said the United States would move for sanctions if Iran did not tell U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar it intended to comply.

The Soviet Union and China, as permanent members of the council, have the power to veto and kill any resolution.

The official said the Soviets "would like not to have to face a decision." He said Moscow had "a flirtation going" with Iran in an effort to gain influence in the country.

Iran readily accepted the ceasefire, but resumed its attacks on Iranian oil shipments 13 days ago after a 45-day, self-imposed moratorium. Iraq contended its moratorium worked to Iran's advantage.

Initially, the State Department

set early last week as the deadline for Iran to comply or face sanctions. The U.N. chief's peace mission brought about a postponement.

Iran's renewed attacks on Iranian targets in the Gulf have damaged prospects of a global arms embargo on Iran if it turns down a U.N. ceasefire order, the official said on Thursday.

The official, who asked not to be identified, also said Iraq's Aug. 29 resumption of attacks after a 45-day lull had lessened the chances that Mr. Perez de Cuellar could persuade both sides to agree to a ceasefire.

He told news agency correspondents that Washington had urged Baghdad not to resume attacks in the Gulf.

"I think it is short-sighted from the Iraqi standpoint, but they don't listen to us," he said.

The official said that while the Security Council gave Mr. Perez de Cuellar no permission to negotiate the ceasefire order, it gave him broad latitude on implementing it.

"The hope, and it was only a hope, was that the partial stand-down offered one plank of a platform that you could build on to get a comprehensive ceasefire. That hope was brought to a noisy end," the official said.

He said Washington had told Iraq that by resuming the air raids on shipping and oil installations "you are risking the ability to persuade the Security Council to move on a second resolution."

He was referring to the U.S. intention to urge the 15-member council to pass another resolution imposing an arms embargo

on either party refusing to accept its July 20 order for a comprehensive ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

"It's going to complicate getting to a second resolution. That's a plain statement of fact," he said.

The State Department has criticised as "certainly not helpful" the resumption of Iraqi air attacks on Gulf shipping and against Iranian land targets.

Spokesman Charles Redman said on Sept. 9 that "both sides should be focussing on U.N. efforts to bring a comprehensive end to the war, that is on sea, land and in the air."

Noting that the president of the United Nations Security Council has appealed for a ceasefire during the planned visit to Iran this week of Mr. Perez de Cuellar, Mr. Redman said, "we urge that both sides support that mission and exercise restraint."

In summary, Mr. Redman said, "Iraq has stated that it attacked some shipping targets. We've also seen press reports of further attacks on inland cities by Iraqi aircraft this morning. Throughout the past week, Iranian and Iraqi land forces have exchanged artillery fire and Iran has fired these cruise-type missiles at Kuwaiti territory." The spokesman said he was not prepared to specify the exact kind of missiles Iran had used.

The U.S. position "on attacks, from one side or the other, has been clear for some time now," he said, adding that "this Iraqi action...is certainly not helpful."

On a related issue, Mr. Red-

man told questioners that there is no "formal" agreement that requires the United States to go to the assistance of Kuwait or any other Arab Gulf state should it be attacked by Iran.

"The same applies to a number of Arab friends in the region where we have consistently stated our support for their sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said. Because there is no formal agreement, "there's nothing automatic," Mr. Redman said, adding that "it's something that we take with concern and therefore, we evaluate each circumstance."

When he was asked what the United States would do to defend ships that might be attacked inside Kuwait's territorial waters, Mr. Redman replied: "I'm not going to provide any commentary on what we may or may not do under any particular circumstances." Concerning U.S. flag shipping, however, he emphasised that "we protect American flag shipping throughout the world, wherever it is."

Mr. Redman brushed aside one reporter's suggestion that the Soviet Union was "trying to mediate" a resolution to the Iran-Iraq war. Delegations from both governments were in Moscow on Sept. 9 as was a separate Arab League delegation.

"I don't know that that's the case," Mr. Redman said of the suggestion that the Soviets are trying to mediate. "I doubt it, in fact. We do know that the Arab League delegation that is there has made clear that its intention is to enlist support for enforcement measures," he added.

Ransom freed Schmidt, magazine says

BEIRUT (R) — A \$2-million ransom freed West German hostage Alfred Schmidt and a similar payment could release Rudolf Cordes, his fellow kidnaper victim in Lebanon, within days, Beirut's Ash Shira'a magazine said on Friday.

Ash Shira'a, which broke the news last November of U.S. arms-for-hostages dealings with Iran, is close to radical movements in Beirut.

"The release of Schmidt was the result of a deal in which the kidnappers received \$2 million. The second German hostage Rudolf Cordes will be freed with the coming day in return for a similar amount," it said.

The West German government and Schmidt's employers, Siemens, have both denied paying a ransom to free Schmidt. Bonn insists his release was unconditional.

Schmidt and Cordes were kidnapped in Muslim West Beirut in January after Shi'ite Muslim Lebanese Mohammad Ali Hamadei, a suspected hijacker, was arrested in Frankfurt.

The two West Germans were thought to have been seized by pro-Iranian Shi'ite militants.

Schmidt was freed on Monday after his kidnappers, "the freedom fighters," said they had received guarantees and assurances from Bonn, which they did not specify.

Ash Shira'a said West Germany had not made any definite promise to free Hamadei, who faces trial on charges of murder and piracy in the 1985 hijack of an American TWA airliner to Beirut.

in which a U.S. Navy diver was killed.

"They (the kidnappers) received hints of settling his position and reducing his punishment... on the basis that we will be freed in a period that is not short and not long," Ash Shira'a said.

In Bonn, the West German Foreign Ministry repeated its categorical denial of any ransom payment, past or planned.

"There is no deal of this kind," Ministry Spokesman Michael Gerds told Reuters when asked about the Beirut magazine report.

Cordes, a 53-year-old businessman, is among 27 foreigners missing and believed kidnapped in Lebanon.

Israeli aircraft workers continue protests

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Some 1,500 Israeli aircraft workers rallied outside the Defence Ministry Friday to protest a government decision two weeks ago to abandon the over-budget Lavi jet fighter project, Israel Radio said.

The demonstration by workers at Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI), manufacturers of the Lavi, took place as Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin met with industry managers to decide on alternatives to the plane.

The workers chanted slogans and demanded that the industry continue test flights of a Lavi prototype, the radio said. No violence was reported.

The Israeli cabinet voted 12-11 on Aug. 30 to abandon the Lavi under heavy pressure from U.S. officials, who said the largely U.S.-funded plane was too expensive and would harm Israel's economy.

The decision to end the seven-year-old project spurred immediate protest by aircraft workers. Rabin has predicted some 3,000 workers will lose their jobs.

Israeli government fires arms dealer

TEL AVIV (R) — Amiram Nir, a key Israeli figure in the Iran arms scandal, was removed on Friday from his post as Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's advisor on counter-terrorism, state-run Israel Radio said.

Nir and two other officials are being replaced according to an agreement signed when the right-wing Likud's Yitzhak Shamir took over the premiership from Labour leader Shimon Peres under a coalition arrangement last November, the radio said.

At the time of the changeover, U.S.-Israeli relations were under heavy strain as details of Israel's involvement in the Iran arms scandal emerged.

Nir, a shadowy figure, is the only official linked to the arms deal who has refused to make any public comment on the affair.

U.S. reports said Nir personally travelled to Tehran to set up the sale of U.S. manufactured weapons to Iran by way of Israel. Former U.S. national security council advisor Oliver North

named Nir as the man who initiated the transfer of proceeds from the arms sales to the Nicaraguan contra rebels. Israel denied the allegation.

North praised Nir as a man Israel could be proud of. "He is a true hero," North told U.S. congressional investigators.

Israeli middleman Yaacov Nimrodi, fired by Nir in the middle of the transaction, blamed the outgoing Israeli official for the deal's failure.

U.S. Navy chief visits Gulf squadron

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agencies) — U.S. Navy Secretary James H. Webb, on an inspection tour of the navy's escort squadron in the Gulf, visited the flagship USS Laffayette on Friday and then flew to the helicopter carrier Guadalcanal, according to a navy source.

Pentagon sources in Washington said earlier that Admiral Webb was making a weekend visit to the Gulf because of the "just wants to see what's happening there."

The U.S. force has been in a "stand-down" for the past several

days, awaiting orders for the next convoy of Kuwaiti tankers registered under the U.S. flag, the Gulf-based navy source said.

Adm. Webb, a highly decorated Marine officer in the Vietnam war, acknowledged in an interview recently that he originally had reservations about the escort operation ordered by President Ronald Reagan.

He said he supported the operation but thought that other countries should be doing more to assist the United States.

Adm. Webb had lunch with

Rear Admiral Harold J. Bernsen, commander of the Middle East Force, aboard Laffayette and was to stay overnight aboard the 18,000-ton carrier, according to the navy source.

The informant, who asked not to be named, said Adm. Webb also was to give a "pep talk" to the 1,200-man crew of the Guadalcanal.

Adm. Webb is the highest ranking civilian official to visit the U.S. forces in the Gulf since the convoy operations began in July.

U.S., Israeli books seized at Moscow fair

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet authorities have confiscated 50 books in Russian belonging to a U.S. publishing company at a Moscow Book Fair, which opened here Tuesday, representatives of the company said.

They have also seized 20 books and about 2,000 posters belonging to the Israeli delegation.

Ellendea Proffer, head of the Michigan-based U.S. company

Ardis, said most of the 19 titles confiscated from her stand were by contemporary Soviet authors such as Andrei Bytov, who lives in the Soviet Union, Joseph Brodsky, a dissident poet who lives in exile in the United States, and Alexander Galich, a dead poet.

Mrs. Proffer and her deceased husband, Mark, were accused

Sunday by the daily Sovetskaya Rossiya of stealing archives of Mikhail Bulgakov, the Soviet author, from the Lenin Library to produce a 10-volume edition of his work.

Israeli representative Amos Rohik explained the confiscated posters were a simple guide to the Hebrew alphabet reading "tongue of the prophets, language of today."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	19:30	Date with a Star
19:30	20:00	New Music
20:00	20:30	Discovering Music
20:30	21:00	Play of the Week
21:00	21:30	Country Music
21:30	22:00	Classical Music
22:00	22:30	Close Down
BBC WORLD SERVICE	6:30	7:30
6:30	7:30	Herb's Hump
7:30	8:00	World News 6:30-7:00
8:00	8:30	World News 7:00-7:30
8:30	9:00	World News 7:30-8:00
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43:30	44:00	World News 42:30-43:00
44:00	44:30	World News 43:00-43:30
44:30	45:00	World News 43:30-44:00
45:00	45:30	World News 44:00-44:30

Murderer arrested at Syrian border

IRBID (J.T.) — Samir Mohammad Al Ahmad, who murdered an elderly couple in Irbid two weeks ago, has been arrested on the Jordanian-Syrian border checkpoint of Al Ramtha, minutes before he attempted to flee to Damascus.

Samir Ahmad, who was stopped at Al Ramtha at 10:00 p.m. on Wednesday, admitted to the police that he shot dead his 85-year-old grandparents after he stole from them JD 600.

According to Brigadier Abdul Rahman Al Edwan, chief of the Irbid police, the murderer confessed that he buried his grandparents beneath a sand in the courtyard of their house after he shot each of them in the head with a shotgun on Aug. 29.

Addressing a press conference on Thursday, Brig. Edwan said the murder of the grandfather was discovered last Thursday after citizens in the area of the house complained of a bad smell coming out from their neighbours' house.

The body of his grandfather was found last Friday, after the police conducted a second search following a similar complaint over a foul smell from neighbours in the area of the Irbid refugee camp.

He said that after thorough investigation with relatives of the murdered, and talking to neighbours, the police suspected Mr. Ahmad sent orders for his arrest to all police forces and departments throughout the Kingdom.

Commerce group urges economic measures

TAFLEH (Petra) — The Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC) has urged the government to embark on a number of activities to help stimulate the national economy.

FJCC President Hamdi Al Tabbaa told a meeting in Tafleth that he hopes the government will allow merchants to trade freely in a number of basic commodities which monopolised by the public sector at present, and will reduce taxes imposed on companies and individuals.

He said that any measures aimed at reincorporating public companies and organisations into the private sector, as well promoting investment in the country, will also help in this endeavour.

Mr. Tabbaa was addressing a FJCC board meeting which was

attended by the Tafleth governor and local officials on Thursday. He paid tribute to measures undertaken by the government to stimulate activity in the economic sector, in addition to measures taken to combat inflation.

Despite these measures he said Jordan's economy still faces certain problems, which are also affecting the entire Arab region. Mr. Tabbaa cited as examples, regression in economic activity in the Arab World, the decline in the price of crude oil, and the price of the dollar, as well as the decline in Arab countries' financial aid to Jordan.

During the session, the board discussed issues pertaining to chambers of commerce activity in Zarqa and Irbid among other topics.

Soviet official to visit, discuss U.N., relations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Oleg Peresypkin, member of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Higher Committee and president of the Diplomatic Studies Academy will arrive here on Tuesday, Sept. 15 on a few-day visit to Jordan.

During his visit, Dr. Peresypkin will meet with a number of Jordanian officials, and hold talks and consultations on agenda of the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly.

He will also discuss bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest to Jordan and the Soviet Union.

Jordanian-Syrian accord referred to parliament

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has referred an agreement with Syria on exploitation of the Yarmouk River waters to Parliament for discussion and approval.

The government, which earlier endorsed the agreement, requested that the subject be given priority in parliamentary discussions. Parliament, which was recessed last month, normally opens ordinary sessions on Oct. 1.

The agreement, signed by

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and his Syrian counterpart, Abdul Ra'ouf Al Kasbi on Sept. 3, provides for Jordan to construct a dam near Al Maqarin station to utilise water from the Yarmouk River. The dam will hold back water to irrigate lands and generate power on both sides of the common border, where the river is located.

Official sources told the Jordan Times that the project is estimated to cost JD 80 million.

Rifai favours UNICEF's request to make regional office permanent

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai has acceded in principle to a request by the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) to change its temporary regional office in Amman to a permanent one, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said on Thursday.

In February 1984, the UNICEF regional office for the Middle East and North Africa was transferred from Beirut to Amman, due to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the continued fighting between the various factions,

according to UNICEF's regional information and communication officer, Suha Majdalani.

Amman was selected as the location for UNICEF's regional office in view of the country's unique location within the Arab World, the stability and security the Kingdom enjoys, and because it provides easy access to services and communications.

The office, operated by a 48-member staff, serves Cyprus, Djibouti, Iran, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria. Ms. Majdalani said. In addition, the

work of UNICEF in Aden, Algiers, Ankara, Cairo, Khartoum, Muscat, Rabat, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, Sanaa, and Tunis will be done in coordination and consultation with the regional office, she noted.

"All of UNICEF's programmes are related to the health and well being of the child," Ms. Majdalani said, adding that UNICEF was mainly involved in child survival and development programmes which include immunisation, oral rehydration, breast feeding, and growth monitoring.

Afro-Arab medical congress ends after extensive discussion

By Nermeen Murad Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The first Afro-Arab Congress for Gastroenterology and Liver Diseases ended here Friday after discussions among participating doctors on innovative methods used in fighting these diseases, and the latest in surgical sciences.

The congress held its last seminar to approve a working plan aimed at improving the level of surgical sciences in Jordan. Participating in the seminar were several Jordanian surgeons, hospital directors, officials, and representatives of authorities concerned with the medical sector in the Kingdom.

Participants discussed the main working paper that was presented by prominent Jordanian neurosurgeon Salah Salah who also chaired the seminar. The paper dealt with "the philosophy of the subject and the gradual steps for the implementation of the programme."

There was an agreement among participants that the programme would begin by gathering necessary information in the field of surgical sciences, analysing the information, and then issuing recommendations that will be implemented in the various hospitals and medical institutions.

A sub-committee was then formed to begin work on the programme and present its report to President of the Society of Surgeons Dr. Ahmad Salman

within the next few months. Members of the different delegations expressed their gratitude to the organisers of the congress.

Dr. Zaki Al Deen, president of the Sudanese Society for Gastroenterology, expressed thanks to the Jordanian government for its support of the Sudanese people by establishing a fully-equipped and staffed hospital in the city of Kass, in the western part of Sudan.

Dr. Sulaiman Saleh Fadheel, associate professor of medicine of Khartoum University, praised the organisation and preparation of the congress in Amman and thanked the Ministry of Health for sending a special medical team to Sudan to help in rural areas.

Dr. Abdel Rahman Alziadi, professor of gastroenterology and liver diseases at the University of Ein Shams in Cairo, stressed the importance of the congress as "it served to bring sixteen countries together to study the most important diseases that befall their people to allow younger doctors to learn through the continuous medical advancement and widen their scientific horizons." He described the congress as "a window through which doctors are able to view the world and learn about what is happening in their fields."

Since the congress convened on Wednesday, there have been different papers discussed on the

subjects of hepatitis B viral infection, schistosomiasis and varices, and gastrointestinal and esophageal varices.

On Thursday, the congress discussed the bleeding ulcer, the role of surgery in treatment of the disease, and the risk factors involved. There were also papers on the peptic ulcer disease in Arabs, which involved a study of 650 cases, and concentrated on the location, cause, and treatment of recurrent peptic ulcers. In addition, papers were presented on the treatment of peptic ulcers in different hospitals in Arab and African countries.

Also on Thursday, papers were presented by Dr. A. Bashir from Jordan on the endoscopic management of obstructive jaundice induced by various parasites, and gallbladder disease in 302 Jordanians.

Two other papers were presented by doctors from Jordan; one dealt with histological study of gallbladder disease; another, with transduodenal sphincteroplasty for biliary tract disease.

Two more papers on infections were presented by doctors from Jordan; one dealing with susceptibility of campylobacter pyloridis killing by human polymorphs and human pooled serum; while another dealt with human salmonellosis in Jordan.

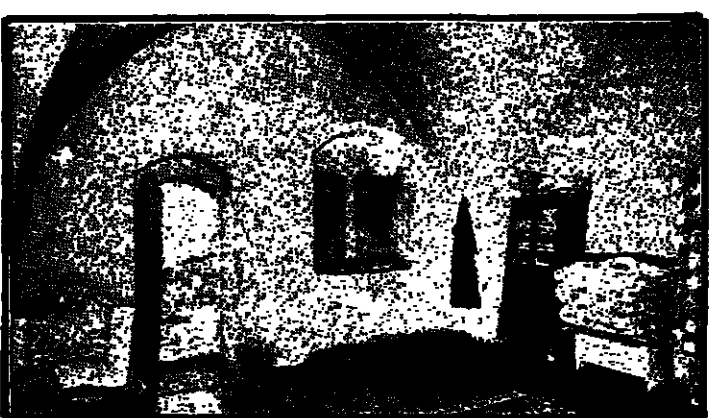
Dr. Ziad Shamsi held a panel discussion on maintenance therapy in chronic duodenal ulcer patients.

Restoration completion celebrated in Umm Qais

UMM QAIS (J.T.) — A reception was held on Friday in Bait Melkawi, Umm Qais, to celebrate the completion of its restoration.

Bait Melkawi is one of several Arab homes under restoration by the German Protestant Institute for Archaeology, which has been working on the project for the past years.

The homes in the area date back to the Ottoman period, according to reliable sources. They are located close to Umm Qais (Gadara), where excavations were being held in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities.



An interior view of Bait Melkawi, Umm Qais; the completion of the home's restoration was celebrated on Friday.

National Aid Fund has helped 60,000

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Aid Fund (NAF) has announced that it spent JD 1,046,356 during the first half of 1987 for the benefit of 10,000 needy families, numbering nearly 60,000 people.

A statement on Friday said that the NAF's board held a meeting Thursday under the chairmanship of Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Haj Hassan to review the fund's activities and to study a financial report and statement on the expenses.

The money was given to needy and poor families, and also in the form of urgent assistance to handicapped people, the statement said.

NAF's expenditures, the statement said, went to needy people for opening small

businesses, like small shops, farms, maintenance workshops, and for those in need of hearing aids or eyeglasses.

The board discussed a study being conducted by a ministry team to define the level of poverty in Jordan.

While addressing the meeting, Mr. Haj Hassan said that once the study has been completed by the middle of the coming year, it will serve as a basis for the NAF's future programmes. The government has allocated JD 70,000 for the study, which is being divided

into three categories: abject poverty requiring basic aid; a determination of the poverty line; and the volume of aid needed.

The meeting also discussed organisational matters related to the collection of contributions. In addition, the minister requested that all NAF offices around the country urge members of the public to help support the fund's endeavours.

Last July, the NAF's board announced that an average of JD 200,000 are being spent monthly on the improvement of living conditions of needy people in the Kingdom. The government established the NAF last year and allocated an initial sum of JD 1.5 million to offer assistance to the needy.

Consulting firm, JVA sign contract for feasibility studies on dams

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American international consultancy firm HARZA has signed a contract with the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) for the preparation of feasibility studies on building dams to store rainwater for irrigation in the Jordan Valley region.

HARZA is conducting the studies in cooperation with the Jordanian consultancy firm Arab Tech.

The dams will be built on the wadis leading the Jordan Valley and the Jordan River.

According to JVA acting President Mohammad Bani Hani, a feasibility study on the project will be available by September 1988. Priorities for the construction process will be made in light of the study.

The feasibility studies will cost \$475,000, of which \$350,000 will be provided for by a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Dr. Bani Hani noted.

In accordance with the agreement, dams will be built on the

Wadi Al Yabis, to store up to seven million cubic metres of water and feed the King Abdullah (East Ghor) Canal in summer, on Wadi Kufunneh, to store another seven million cubic metres of water for irrigation, and the walls of the Al Kufra dam will be raised.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Bani Hani, representatives of HARZA and Arab Tech., Mr. R. Johnson, USAID deputy director, and Mr. Zafar Al Alem, JVA deputy president.

Khayyat to hold talks in Baghdad

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat will travel to Baghdad on Monday for a several-day official visit.

An announcement in Amman said that the minister will hold talks with his Iraqi counterpart, Mr. Abdullah Abbas, on a number of issues pertaining to religious affairs, and will sign an agreement with him to launch bilateral cooperation in the field of 'Da'wa'.

According to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, the agreement will cover, among other things, an exchange of regulations for managing the estates owned by the ministries of Awqaf in both countries.

The agreement, the ministry said in a statement, will also provide for holding joint Islamic seminars, organising religious exhibitions for displaying publications and religious books, and joint television and radio programmes on Islamic culture.

UNRWA accepts aid for new health centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has received financial donations to help build facilities for its centres in Jordan.

An UNRWA source said that the Refugee Affairs Council in Denmark has made a donation of \$275,000, which will be used to build a health centre in the Jerash refugee camp to offer medical

services to the camp residents. It said that work on the centre will begin next year.

UNRWA said that the Near East Church Council has donated \$5,834 to build a dentistry unit at UNRWA's centre in Amman. The council had earlier announced a contribution of \$3,390 towards setting up the dentistry unit.

Electricity authority bids to consult Mauritania

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) said in a statement Friday that, in cooperation with a Swiss firm, it has recently bid to offer consultancy services for the electrification of 13 cities in Mauritania.

A JEA team recently paid visits to Switzerland, Luxembourg, and Mauritania to discuss on the project with the Swiss international consultancy firm specialising in water and electric-

ity on the prospect of the joint scheme, the statement said.

It said that detailed studies were made by all parties concerned, and an agreement has been finalised for the official signing.

According to the statement, a JEA team had toured Mauritania to survey regions where the project will be implemented, and to brief officials on JEA's power system.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal Decrees endorse new ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing the appointment of Walid Majed Al Sa'ad Al Bataineh as extraordinary ambassador to the People's Republic of China. Before this recent appointment, Mr. Bataineh was Jordan's ambassador to Yugoslavia. Mr. Bataineh replaces Mr. Kamal Hmoud. Another Royal Decree has been issued appointing Hani Tubbarah as extraordinary ambassador to Yugoslavia. Mr. Tubbarah was Jordan's ambassador to Turkey before being transferred to Yugoslavia.

Cabinet approves companies for projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved a recommendation by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, Investment Encouragement Committee to consider 18 new Jordanian companies as economic projects and, consequently, to grant them the exemptions provided for in the Law on Encouragement of Investment.

Military governor endorses verdict

AMMAN (Petra) — Military governor has endorsed the military court's verdict, sentencing Sayyed Hussein Awad to one and a half months in prison after convicting him of offering bribe to a public servant, who refused it.

Ambassador to Oman received by minister

OMAN (Petra) — Omani Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qais Al Zawawi Thursday received Jordan's ambassador to Oman, Nayef Al Hadid, who conveyed to him a verbal message from Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. The message deals with bilateral relations.

Council chief to lead security talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary-General of the Arab Interior Ministers Council Akram Nasha'at Ibrahim is here to take part in the 12th meeting of Arab police and public security directors, due to be held here on Tuesday. Dr. Nasha'at was received upon arrival by Director of Amman Police Major General Nasouh Muhieddine and Colonel Youssef Gharaiebeh, director of the Arab Office for Combating Narcotics.

Jordan to take part in resource council

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources will take part in the ministerial council meetings of the Arab Organisation for Mineral Resources. An announcement from the ministry said that Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Khatib will take part in the meeting which will be held on Oct. 2.

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ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Perez de Cuellar begins mission

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar today embarks on a new mission in the Gulf to end the conflict between Iran and Iraq. De Cuellar will be going to Tehran first to try to obtain its endorsement of the Security Council Resolution 598 which provides for an end to the war between the two neighbours. His mission comes against a background of stepped up war activity by land, sea and air, making his task even more difficult and his talks more decisive, according to observers at the United Nations Organisation. De Cuellar's mission and its results will show the world if the conflict is now nearing its end or is going the other direction, largely due to the Iranian intransigence which would subsequently call for sanctions to be imposed on the Tehran regime. So far prospects for De Cuellar's success look bleak because there is nothing to indicate that the Iranian regime has changed its position or will do so in the foreseeable future. In view of the secretary general's visit, and the recent developments in the Gulf, the Gulf Cooperation Council has decided to hold an urgent meeting Saturday to discuss Iran's continued threats to Gulf countries. If De Cuellar fails in his attempt to secure Iran's acceptance of the Security Council resolution, then the international community should look into the prospect of imposing sanctions.

Al Dustour: Libyan-Iraqi relations take a turn

THE Libyan-Iraqi joint communiqué issued Thursday upon the conclusion of the Libyan foreign minister's visit to Baghdad spells a feeling of satisfaction and relief. The communiqué also revives hopes in the Arab World of a re-establishment of solidarity among Arab countries, a long-sought dream by the Arab masses who aspire unity and cooperation among themselves in the face of foreign threats. The communiqué showed beyond doubt that regardless of the past disputes and differences, the Arabs have no alternative to unity of ranks and joint action in the face of external threats. It is true that many years have passed during which certain Arab states have been dissociating themselves from joint action to serve the common interests of the Arab Nation, but such situation cannot last for ever, and the time has come for all Arabs to join hands and embark on the common task of defending national soil. Those Arab countries which choose to ally themselves with foreign countries discover that they are vulnerable and weak and cannot confront any foreign threat as long as they are dislocated from the Arab Nation. We hope that Libya's realisation of these facts, which came too late, will help heal rifts within the Arab World, and help unify Arab ranks. We hope also that this Libyan positive move will pave the way for a successful Arab summit meeting at which Arab heads of state can chart joint action to deter further Iranian aggression on Iraqi territory.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iran escalates conflict

OBSERVERS of the on-going conflict in the Gulf note that the Iranians have been escalating war activity in a bid to avoid implementing Security Council resolutions which would end the conflict altogether. The Iranians have embarked on stepping up their attacks on the eve of a visit to the region by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, which is the last chance for achieving peace in implementation of Council Resolution 598. De Cuellar who arrives in Tehran Friday is backed not only by the Security Council Resolution on the Gulf, but also by support from all world nations. If the Iranians continue to show intransigence then the council will have to impose sanctions provided for in the resolution, a fact which De Cuellar will no doubt point out in his talks with Tehran rulers. In addition, international pressure on Iran, Iraq's solid stand and continued shelling of Iranian targets as well as the huge losses that Iran has sustained during the seven-year-old war will altogether help De Cuellar's mission in the coming days. We have hope that De Cuellar will play his cards well and secure a lasting peace in the Gulf.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Peres shelve elections

A spokeswoman for the Israeli Labour Party announced yesterday that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has given up his advocacy for an early parliamentary elections. Peres had used the idea of early election as a lever on Likud to force it to accept the idea of an international conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. The spokeswoman said that no thought will be given to the proposed conference before the end of November 1988 when the ordinary parliamentary election has been held and in the light of its results. We are not surprised to see Peres behaving in this manner but we consider his behaviour and his decision as another proof that his differences with Yitzhak Shamir over the question of the conference only as deception and a tactical move designed to cause more divisions within the Arab World. Peres' move could also be considered as a ploy to keep the Arabs hanging on to a false hope. Peres' move proved beyond doubt that he and Shamir are in reality two faces of the same coin. The game which Peres is playing now is to keep the Arabs hanging on to the hope of the coming Israeli election and its results and to make them believe that they have to wait until the Labour Party in Israel is in at the reins of power once again and it is only the Labour Party which can agree to a participation in the projected conference.

Al Dustour: Perez de Cuellar begins mediation

U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is due to arrive in Tehran Friday at the start of his recent mediation effort to bring an end to the Gulf conflict. De Cuellar who has been entrusted by the Security Council to carry out his mission will of course be focusing attention on the prospect of implementing Security Council Resolution 598. De Cuellar's visit to the Gulf region assumes a great significance in view of the on-going escalation of the conflict and due to the presence of naval forces in the area. Iran which has neither accepted nor rejected the council resolution is trying to manoeuvre and to play for time, and also is trying to weaken the international community's will to implement the resolution which would end the war and impose sanctions on the aggressors. De Cuellar's visit is looked on by observers as a means for ending Iran's manoeuvres and stalling for time and for obtaining a solid reply to the council resolution. Should his task end in failure, the Security Council will have to look into the prospect of imposing sanctions on Tehran for violating United Nations charter. We hope that Tehran's rulers will declare their acceptance of the council's resolution during De Cuellar's visit so that tragedies can be avoided and peace can be established in the Gulf.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

Religion: A new framework

By Kamel Abu Jaber

ISLAM then is not against development to the same degree that other religions are or are not. What is needed is neither total repudiation nor blind apologia but a new epistemological framework that combines a rational approach to life with spiritual elements that give freedom of choice making life more palatable. The present epistemological framework is either too spiritual, resting on, retracting into, or recreating an idealised civilisation that once was, or fatalistically pragmatic accepting and apologising for all forms of authority that exist in Arab life. To conquer nature and control, for the benefit of man, its material side through knowledge and the scientific approach to life is a precondition for modernity. To view other sources of the law, besides that divinely revealed, such as positive and natural laws as a necessity for regulating public life, especially the state, is another precondition. In this world men compete for its resources and the state must regulate the rules of the game and control them. Neither of these conditions need be contradictory to the other.

Many intellectuals, both Muslim and other, claim that this rational spiritual framework has not developed and cannot be developed because certain conditions have not been met. The first is the so-called absence of a protesting reformation movement in Islam though one can point to a multitude of movements throughout Islamic history including Khariji tendencies, al-Mu'tazilah, and several other systems of thought both medieval and modern. The second condition thought to be necessary, and yet

absent, is the need to separate religion from the state.

Upon reflection, the posing of these two preconditions seems to complicate rather than simplify the issue. First because human progress cannot wait nor is there an iron-clad law that dictates that the experience of one civilisation need be duplicated elsewhere. Second and more important is the question of what purpose a reformation movement or a separation of state and religion would serve. Both the reformation, and the separation of state and church, where it occurred in the West, had as their objective the creation of certain conditions that would put religion in its proper place in public life; to make it an authority that is at best subservient to the state, or at least equal and preferably on good terms of cooperation with the state.

In looking at the Islamic experience either in historical or contemporary terms, it is only on rare, very rare occasions that the state has not been in control; the experience of the Iranian revolution of 1979 notwithstanding. The ruler almost always, even in Shi'a Islam, has had the upper hand and could, should he see fit, outline the parameters of the relationship. Basically, no independent religious authority like that in the Western experience has developed to compete, and often bloody conflict, with secular authority. This feature of Islamic experience has the unfortunate consequence of freeing the secular hand to dictate, in the literal sense, the boundaries of public life, and was a major cause for the

rise of authoritarianism still the basic feature of the state.

Yet should other conditions prevail, principally the development of a proper framework like the one outlined above, the absence of an independent spiritual authority can be a blessing. For one thing, there is no need to waste vast energy and resources, even blood, in attempting to draw the lines between religion and state. In most Islamic countries, in fact, the care, development and the affairs of religion are already a concern of the state. The ministries or departments of religious affairs attest to the true nature of the relationship between religion and the state. Thus the time, energy and resources on drawing the lines can and should be spent on other more positive areas of cooperation rather than competition. The trick is to develop and bring out points conducive to cooperation and thus development. It would seem then that the major questions, or at least most of them, that have plagued Western society for so long have basically been resolved. With this realisation, the questions of tradition and modernity can be placed in their proper perspective. Thus tradition need not be contradictory to development but a source of confidence paving the way for accommodating life according to the scientific knowledge introduced from time to time. Life thus becomes a rational continuum neither dictated by tradition alone, and thus alien to modernity, nor by modernity alone thus alienated from tradition: A panorama in which tradition is judged in the spirit of modernity, which in turn is judged with a consciousness of tradition.

Perez de Cuellar begins Gulf peace mission in Tehran

(Continued from page 1)

U.N. resolution had "two or three" acceptable points, IRNA reported.

He was quoted as stressing that Tehran has not rejected the resolution outright, but does not endorse it "in its entirety."

Mr. Khamenei said he did not know what proposals Mr. Perez de Cuellar was bringing with him, but would listen to what the U.N. chief has to say.

In his sermon broadcast on Tehran Radio, Mr. Khamenei said Iran wanted peace more than anybody but Iraq should first be branded the "aggressor."

"If the world wants peace in this area, the road is not force, not military presence, it is not by supporting the Iraqi regime. There is another way," Mr. Khamenei said.

"What is the source of the insecurity and fire-mongering? Who started hitting tanks? Who started hitting residential areas? Who started the war?"

"Until this road to a solution is recognised, until the root of the rot is properly recognised... this situation will continue in the Persian Gulf, violently," he said.

On the eve of the U.N. mission, a senior Soviet official was quoted Friday as saying the

Kremlin rules out any international military action against Iran to resolve the war with Iraq.

But Alexander Galitsyn, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Gulf section, said Moscow supports "in principle" an arms embargo against the country that rejects Resolution 598.

"The credibility of the Iranian attitude will depend on the outcome of the U.N. secretary-general's trip to Tehran," Mr. Galitsyn was quoted as saying in a Moscow interview published by Kuwait's Al Anbaa newspaper.

"If Perez de Cuellar's mission failed, a possibility which we rule out, we will call for talks among the council's permanent members and concerned states in search of a new move within the charter," Mr. Galitsyn said in the interview.

"However, we absolutely rule out military action as a means for resolving the conflict, at the same time emphasising that the Soviet Union will abide by any U.N. resolution. We are in principle with an arms embargo," he said.

He hailed the outcome of talks held in Moscow Wednesday between an Arab League delegation, led by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, and the Soviet premier

and foreign minister.

"The talks were extremely important and fruitful for pushing ahead the peace process in the Gulf. Despite the tragic situation there, we are optimistic," Mr. Galitsyn was quoted as saying.

He said the talks removed "doubts... about quality" of a Soviet attitude toward the war, which reportedly set in after Moscow recently moved to improve its ties with Iran.

Mr. Galitsyn attributed "an improvement" in Soviet-Iranian relations recently to "the U.S. pressures on Tehran, which has now come to discern that the Soviet Union harboured no enmity toward Iran and considers it (Iran) an anti-imperialist country."

But he asserted that the improvement in Moscow's ties with Tehran "will not take place at the expense of any Arab side and the Soviet Union will continue to fulfil its obligations toward Iraq under the (existing) friendship pact."

Mr. Galitsyn said the Soviet Union fully understood concerns expressed by Gulf Arab states over the escalating tension from the protracted Iran-Iraq hostilities, and the effect on the region.

"We reject any aggression on Kuwait that jeopardises its

sovereignty and independence," he said.

In Washington, Secretary of State George Shultz said on Friday he expected Iran to refuse a flat acceptance of the U.N. ceasefire, in which case Washington would press for a global arms embargo.

Mr. Shultz predicted Iran would not give a definitive acceptance of the U.N. order.

In that case, Washington would press for a global arms embargo on Tehran, Mr. Shultz said in an interview with Reuters and the international television news agency Visnews.

"If (Mr. Perez de Cuellar) comes back with basically a rejection, or rather an equivocal position, then that will trigger moves on a second resolution and we will see who will support it," he said.

"We proceed on the basis that it is likely that everyone will," he added.

On the Iraqi-Iran warfront, the guns fell silent on Friday as Mr. Perez de Cuellar flew to Tehran.

Neither Iran nor Iraq reported any military action on Friday after a final two-day flurry in which economic targets and cities were pounded by artillery and aircraft and ships were attacked in the Gulf.

Controversy grows over 'message'

(Continued from page 1)

adding that Mr. Arafat "did not mention direct negotiations outside an international conference."

But Mr. Biton dismissed the denial in an interview, saying it did not contradict Mr. Arafat's offer to hold direct talks with Israel in the framework of an international conference.

Mr. Biton said Mr. Arafat proposed direct talks since the three conditions had been fulfilled. He said Mr. Arafat made the verbal offer during a United Nations conference on the question of Palestinian independence held in Geneva earlier this week.

On his return late on Thursday from Geneva, Mr. Biton said "Arafat made it clear that what he wanted was direct negotiations with Israel in the framework of an international conference."

Jordan has expressed shock that Mr. Arafat was ready to enter direct peace talks with Israel.

"We are astonished, shocked if this is true," Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib said on Wednesday. "This means direct negotiations with Israel outside the international conference."

The PLO has joined Arab countries in calling for an international conference on Middle East peace that would include participation by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. It has insisted on being the sole representative of the Palestinians in such a forum.

Israel's government is split on the conference issue. Mr. Shamir,

head of the right-wing Likud bloc, opposes the move, while Mr. Peres, head of the left-leaning Labour party, backs it.

But Mr. Peres has adamantly rejected PLO participation and insists Palestinian representatives be included as part of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Mr. Arafat's roundabout approach to passing the message to Israeli leaders has caused even Israeli moderates to be sceptical about its significance.

Meron Benvenisti, head of an American-funded research project documenting conditions in the occupied West Bank, called it "a lot of hot air."

In a front-page commentary, the mass-circulation Maariv wrote that Mr. Arafat had used "psychological tricks... to embarrass Israel."

"If Arafat really had serious proposals he would have conveyed them through President Mubarak," the paper said.

The Jerusalem weekly Kol Ha'ir quoted Mr. Arafat Friday as saying he had not made a more direct offer because Mr. Shamir had ignored an earlier initiative we made via Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

"I'm no amateur," the paper quoted Mr. Arafat as saying. "If the government of Israel were to make contact with me, even via secret channels, I would make an appropriate response."

Israel Television quoted the weekly Kol Ha'ir as saying Mr. Arafat's three points were mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO, joint agreement to halt hostilities and an end to Jewish settlements during talks.

Israel on way to becoming 'police state'

(Continued from page 1)

million occupation tax, or money that is used by the Israelis" in 1987, Mr. Benvenisti said.

The report also showed a decrease this year in armed resistance activities by Palestinians as compared with 1986, but an increase in locally initiated acts of resistance or demonstrations.

Since 1982, the number of violent incidents has remained steady at about 3,000 a year. But in 1987, 18 of the attacks involved use of firearms as compared with 25 in 1986 and 46 in 1985.

"This indicates a new phase in Palestinian resistance," the report says. "It shows grass roots resistance is increasing rather than externally directed attacks planned by organisations abroad."

According to the study, Israel has invested about \$3 billion in Jewish settlement building in the

occupied territories since 1968, and the number of settlers has increased 120 per cent since 1983, totalling 65,000 this year.

In a related development, the newly-appointed chief rabbi of Hebron in the West Bank was quoted as saying that he would turn it from an Arab city into a Jewish one.

"We will bring thousands more Jews to Hebron, and Hebron will be transformed into a Jewish city," Rabbi Dov Lior was quoted as saying by the English-language Jerusalem Post.

The rabbi has in the past supported Jewish terrorists, some of whom are serving prison sentences for armed attacks on Arabs.

He is closely identified with the right-wing Gush Emunim (Bloc of the Faithful) movement, active in Jewish settlement in the West Bank.

Iraq and Libya to resume full ties

(Continued from page 1)

broken.

The joint statement summarised the result of the visit to Baghdad of Mr. Talhi.

Mr. Talhi left Baghdad on Tuesday after conferring with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during his three-day stay.

The statement said that following Mr. Talhi's talks the two sides agreed on the following:

— Brotherly Iraqi-Libyan relations based on reciprocal respect and Arab charters, and the strengthening of relations in all fields.

— The two sides agree, according to the Arab League Charter, to oppose any foreign aggression against the territory or interests of any Arab state, or interference in internal Arab affairs.

— The necessity of ending the Gulf war through peaceful means and according to international law, because its continuation serves imperialist and Zionist plots.

The statement also recalled the

decision by the Arab League's foreign ministers' conference in Tunis last month supporting the July 20 U.N. resolution.

Libya had refused to join the other foreign ministers who agreed on a severance of diplomatic relations with Iran over its refusal to accept the Security Council resolution.

Mr. Talhi told the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) at Kuwait airport before leaving for Libya that his visit to Baghdad had "achieved the hoped-for results to strengthen relations between Libya and Iraq and what these relations should be in the future."

In recent months Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has criticised Tehran for rejecting bids to end the war and occupying Iraqi territory.

Asked how the statement would affect Libya's relations with Iran, Mr. Talhi said: "We are against continuation of the war and we hope it will end. I don't believe it will affect our relations with this country."



NOTICE FROM CONSULATE OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA, AMMAN

The Sri Lankan consulate hereby announces to all Sri Lankans working in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan that some prominent official Sri Lankan figures are expected to visit Jordan. Therefore, all Sri Lankans working in Jordan, except "those working as maids," are kindly requested to call at the consulate to register their names and addresses so that we can contact them in the future.

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LETTERS

Beyond screening

To the Editor:

JORDAN Television is doing very well in its choice of well produced programmes aired on our screens. Documentaries like "Mandela" which are highly educational and informative are essential for both children's and adults' intellectual development.

I would like to suggest however that JTV considers going on step further in the future by organising panel discussions after such documentaries. For example after "Mandela" educationalists or intellectuals could discuss the striking similarities in conditions that the black South African and the Palestinian people face.

Panel discussions which analyse Arab causes in the light of the causes of other nations create an awareness and an understanding of the workings of the world in our people. Moreover, the opportunity to discuss publicly national and international issues breeds a sense of democracy and tolerance for opposing or differing views.

However, none of this will come about unless it is accompanied by a nationwide campaign to promote awareness. And Jordan Television, capable of reaching every home, is well equipped to lead such a campaign in order to promote people's awareness.

Mary Azar
Amman.

Unnecessary risks

To the Editor:

ONE of the rarely known or recognised causes of car accidents in Jordan has been the low quality of tyres used by motorists. By low quality, I mean worn out tyres that skid easily and fail to grip the road when braking to avert a crash or a pedestrian crossing the street. I have noticed that there is a growing number of dealers here who are importing used tyres from Europe on a large scale, perhaps large enough to be a cause of worry. European standards allow vehicle tyres to reach a minimum tread depth of two millimeters. After that, a car owner is required to change his tyres or else get fined. This law was brought in effect by the International Road Federation (IRF) as a means of making driving safer and more pleasurable. It has been scientifically proven that tyres with a tread depth of less than two millimeters significantly lose their grip on the road and hence become a threat to the driver and passengers, not to mention pedestrians.

It is understandable that people are looking for means to cut expenses, especially during hard economic times; but when the return is a risk to someone's life, it is well worth considering the expense. Let's say an average used tyre may last anywhere from four to twelve months if the customer makes a good choice, and will cost between JD 4 to JD 10. On the other hand, a new tyre, that is sub-standard and not approved by European authorities, will cost in the range of JD 15, and last about 18 months. Alternatively, a new well known brand of tyre of the same size would cost around JD 20 and serve the car for three years, not to mention the decrease in risk that one buys with a well known tyre brand. A retreaded tyre, which may be considered an alternative by some people, is not even worth mentioning since a driver would be lucky if the tyre lasted longer than one month, not to mention the consequences of this tyre failing the driver while travelling at a high speed.

The International Road Federation had an extensive research conducted before pushing for this law to be enacted with the purpose of saving lives. It is worth pondering the fact that we are buying what the Europeans reject. The way I see it, life is too short and valuable to take such unnecessary risks.

Khalil Farouki
P.O. Box 141309
Amman.



NOTICE FROM CONSULATE OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA, AMMAN

The Sri Lankan consulate announces to all citizens as it has previously announced, through the local press and regulations posted at the consulate's entrance, that it does not deal with issues pertaining to Sri Lankan maids, but performs its duties in serving the Sri Lankans living in Jordan and provides them with official information. In case a dispute arises, it will be solved through the proper channels.

Therefore we would like to request the citizens anew not to contact us by telephone or to visit the consulate for such disputes.

Egypt's white gold is now just plain cotton

By Bahgat Badie
Reuters

CAIRO — Once revered as "white gold" and a harbinger of good times, Egypt's cotton now brings little more than hard work and low profit to the Nile farmer.

A bumper cotton harvest 40 years ago could mean a new autumn bride for a man or new clothes and luxuries for the family — perhaps even a circus trip to town for the children.

For older farmers, autumn cotton markets paid for rare city delights in the shops and nightclubs of Cairo or Alexandria.

But the good times died 35 years ago when land reforms passed by Gamel Abdul Nasser's revolutionary government cut private holdings to 50 acres and introduced cotton-growing quotas.

"Cotton is no longer the white gold it was before the 1952 army revolution," lamented Hassan Ali Magdoub, who farms in a remote village near the Nile delta town of Tanta.

Producers grumble that the government pays low prices for cotton and that the state system has backfired.

"It's a lot of hard work yielding very little profit to the farmers," agreed agriculture ministry official Yassin Osman.

Cotton farming is costly. Over eight months of growth it needs more labour, insecticides and aerial spraying than most other crops, a farmer explained. The end result is a net profit of \$145 per acre.

Farmers are unimpressed by goods sold to them through a state marketing system, by free water, subsidised seeds, pesticides and fertilisers or by low-interest loans.

State-fixed prices and quotas halved land under cotton to one million acres but new modern methods kept the yield high.

Farmers paid fines or went to prison rather than sell their crops at a loss, Agriculture Minister Youssef Wali told parliament last month.

Millions of rural peasants

sought work in booming oil states or in the teeming streets of Cairo, filling the capital to bursting point and creating a manpower crisis on the farms.

The government now fixes what it deems to be fair prices. Cotton is still the biggest commodity export, as it has been since it was introduced to Egypt over a century ago.

Egypt, whose other main sources of income are the Suez Canal, oil, and money from workers abroad, earned about \$400 million from cotton exports in 1986 and expects more from the bumper harvest forecast for this year.

Farmers send cotton to about 2,200 collecting centres and the state buys it after it is graded by a government expert.

"If the farmer disagrees with the grading he has one option — an appeal to an arbitration committee whose decision is final."

Surprisingly, Egypt also imports cotton. Its own crop is very high quality and it buys a cheaper type from America for domestic tex-

tile factories, \$47 million worth in 1986 and an expected \$22 million worth this year.

Highly-prized Egyptian cotton is sold to Europe and the United States.

In September and October, a million youngsters cut classes to work removing the main pest, the cotton worm, from the crop. The education ministry complains,

while the agriculture ministry pleads for the start of the academic year to be delayed.

An abnormal heatwave this summer has inhibited cotton worm infestation, boosting the crop to bumper levels, farmers say.

The crop is harvested under the watchful eyes of state officials who ensure that no cotton is smuggled to the local market for higher prices than the government pays.

"Our immediate problem now is the manpower shortage," a farmer said. "There are machines to harvest wheat and rice, but none has yet been marketed to collect cotton."

China's 1st polling company probes public opinion

By Jim Abrams
The Associated Press

BEIJING — China's first opinion polling organisation has found that the Chinese are ready to speak their mind, and not always to the government's liking.

Since its formation last October, China Social Survey has conducted major opinion polls on economic and political reforms. It has also delved into market research, examining consumer tastes in refrigerators and other household goods.

"By random surveys, we can express many ideas to our leaders," said Du Yau, director of China Social Survey. "It is better than staging demonstrations."

Du said opinion polls "couldn't be imagined 10 years ago," when people still feared immediate reprisals for questioning the government line.

But today, as China shifts to a more market-oriented economy, "leaders want to know what people think. Our services are needed so as to eliminate shock to society in making policies."

Du stressed that the polls show strong backing for the government's reform policies, but said they also turned up pockets of the disaffected.

While two-thirds in a May-June poll said economic reforms were going in the right direction, 15 per cent said they were dissatisfied. They expressed concern about loss of job security and guaranteed health care, rising prices and a growing gap between the rich and the poor as China switches to a commodity-based economy.

Only 56.6 per cent said they were satisfied with their current financial situation.

Three-fourths in a July poll on political reform said they were satisfied with their political rights, but there was overwhelming support for greater reforms aimed at reducing bureaucracy and separating the functions of the party and those running the economy.

Each poll canvassed about 2,500 people by mail and home visit. Du said the respondents were randomly selected and

assured that their answers would be anonymous.

"No one will know what individuals replied. We don't know," he said.

Another survey of 2,000 industrial managers revealed that while most were optimistic about the future, 80 per cent complained about outside obstacles to smooth production.

Managers said they were shackled by shortages of electricity, raw materials, equipment and funds.

China Social Survey is under the auspices of the state commission for restructuring the economic system and now has a regular staff of 60 with 200 volunteers nationwide.

Du said the organisation is paid separately for each poll it conducts. It is now a non-profit operation, charging only a service fee. But its leaders have visions of converting it into a money-making business under future reforms that will allow, or force, enterprises to pay their own way and give them a share in any profits.

He said the results of the polls are immediately released to the press, which is state-run and not obliged to print poll results. The only results withheld from the press are consumer surveys, because of their competitive nature. Du added. With the introduction of profit motives, companies that commission market research polls about consumer tastes might want to use the findings to their own advantage in order to outsell rival makers.

While China Social Survey is the only company devoted solely to taking polls, opinion surveys are increasingly common as the Communist Party tries harder to meet, rather than dictate, popular needs.

A state statistical bureau survey of 17,000 urban families found 61 per cent had washing machines and 26 per cent colour televisions, but only 30 per cent have private toilets.

A Beijing city poll found that 64 per cent disapproved of premarital sex, down from 80 per cent in 1982.

JTV Channel 2 Preview

Sat — Sept. 12, 1987

8:30 Together We Stand

9:00 Sat. Variety Show

10:20 Feature Film
Sex and the Married Woman
Starring: Joanna Pettet
Barry Newman

This is a comedy film about a married lady who writes a book about her life.

Sun — Sept. 13, 1987

8:30 Charles in Charge

9:10 The Baby Business

One part special documentary. This Special examines the problems of infertility and the new options available through revolutionary medical advances. The profound legal, moral and ethical questions of surrogate motherhood are also explored.

10:20 Hunter

11:10 Open All Hours

Mon — Sept. 14, 1987

8:30 Allo Allo

9:10 Mountain Men

10:20 The Love Boat

Tue — Sept. 15, 1987

8:30 Double Trouble

(Dream Girls)
A hot rock star offers Kate a job and the chance to go on tour with

him — an opportunity sister Allison fears will leave her alone in New York and separate the twins for the first time in their lives.

9:10 Magnum

10:20 'The Scarlett O'Hara War'
David Selznick buys the rights to "Gone With The Wind" and signs Clark Gable as Rhett Butler. But, his search to cast the lead of Scarlett O'Hara creates a disease — "Scarlett Fever" — that sweeps Hollywood and the country.

Wed — Sept. 16, 1987

8:30 Don't Wait Up

9:10 Doc — The Silk Road

Two Roads to the Pamirs
With Changan now a long way behind, the coverage team starts on the last leg of its trip. At Suoche (Yarkand), the road splits into two directions, one is the new road and the other the old road, both leading to Tashkurgan. The trip along the old road will take us into the ancient Silk Road, while the trip on the new road will reveal the Silk Road of today, as represented by the China-Pakistan Trade Fair at the town of Kashgar. The programme introduces the rich nomadic life and folk music and dances of tribesmen who live deep in the Asian continent, and will depict the Silk Road that continues to thrive in the present-day world. Yes, the Silk Road is still alive and thriving!

10:20 The Rhinemann Exchange

Bestseller
Starring: Stephen Collins
Lauren Hutton



Inside Story: Friday at 10:20

Roddy McDowall
John Huston
Jose Ferrer
Vince Edwards

9:10 Play:
Not That Kind of People

10:20 Feature Film

Smugglers
Starring: Shirley Booth
Carol Lynley
Kurt Kinsner
Two American tourists in Europe (Miss Booth and Miss Lynley) who are used as decoys by an international smuggling operation.

Fri — Sept. 18, 1987

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

9:10 Falcon Crest

10:20 Inside Story

Thur — Sept. 17, 1987

8:30 Kate and Allie

Japan joins world hunt for elusive quark

By Mari Taketa
The Associated Press

TSUKUBA SCIENCE CITY, Japan — In silver tunnels beneath Japanese pines, scientists spin atoms at close to the speed of light. They are in a worldwide, multi-billion-dollar race to find a particle that has eluded the best minds and machines in the United States, Europe, China and the Soviet Union.

The particle sought in Japan's \$700-million super collider and super colliders elsewhere is the last of the six subatomic particles.

Whoever finds it first can expect a glimpse of a tidbit locked inside the structure of the atom, more insight into nature's blueprint, and just perhaps, a Nobel Prize in physics.

"Our senses delve smaller and smaller," said physicist Sadaharu Uehara. "Now we can recognise the smaller units of matter in nature. We want to know why they exist, and what forces govern them."

Scientists say all matter is made up of quarks and leptons, which make up atoms that combine to become oceans, stars, human beings. They have found the leptons and think nature made six quarks, but so far have discovered only five.

Scientists name each quark according to its characteristics. Those who found the fourth quark, the charm, won the Nobel physics prize. But the discoverers of the fifth, the bottom, went unnoticed by the Nobel committee. With a worldwide hunt on for the sixth, top quark, it is difficult to say whether discovery will bring the prize.

Years from now the information Japan's super collider Tristan

pulsed into Tristan — electrons in one direction and positrons in the other. Magnets draw the beams on until they crash at 25 billion electron volts each, producing a 50-billion electron volt collision.

About 20 times a day, once in every 750 million or so collisions, computer screens in the underground laboratories show an "event" — a blossoming of spirals that trace the paths of fragments bursting free.

Uehara and others watch the screens for eight-hour stretches, 24 hours a day, hoping for hints of undiscovered tidbits. It takes greater and greater energies to create successive quarks. If at some energy level the rate of events suddenly rises, they will know they have found the sixth quark.

In between, they may take a bit of time for jogs around the complex at more leisurely speeds than the particles coursing beneath their feet.

The Japanese have reason to hurry. Tristan is now the world's pre-eminent electron-positron collider, but it will soon be eclipsed by other, stronger machines.

In about a year, Stanford University in California will complete

a more powerful electron-positron accelerator, and the European Organisation for Nuclear Research in Geneva a stronger one by 1989.

Fermilab in Batavia, Illinois, is the world's most powerful proton collider, with energies higher than Tristan's, but the research director for Tristan, Ken Kikuchi, says detecting quarks in the greater debris of proton-antiproton collisions is "like trying to find a diamond in a huge amount of junk."

Within 10 years, pending approval from Congress, the United States plans the absolute giant among the world's atom smashers — the 53-mile superconducting super collider (SSC), to be built at a cost of \$4.4 billion.

The SSC will be a proton smasher capable of energy levels reaching 20 trillion electron volts, 20 times more powerful than Fermilab. Scientists say collisions of such incredible intensity will approximate the big bang, the explosion that created the universe, and inevitably produce the sixth quark and other particles.

Tristan should top 60 billion electron volts when superconductors are installed next year, according to Kikuchi.

Tourists bare all on Yugoslavian beaches

By Vjekoslav Radovic
Reuters

ADA NA BOJANI, Yugoslavia — "You can't come here improperly dressed. Take your clothes off or leave," an angry waiter told me as I tried to interview diners at a terrace cafe.

Getting undressed was the only way to feel welcome in Ada Na Bojani, one of about 30 nudist complexes that are luring naturists from all over Europe and North America to Yugoslavia's Adriatic coast.

Recent official figures show 20 per cent of the eight million foreign tourists coming annually to Yugoslavia strip of to savour the warm sands, crystal waters and sunshine.

Engulfed by the green waters of the Bojana River delta to the north and south, and the blue Adriatic to the west, Ada boasts a 3,800 metre beach running all the way to the border of Yugoslavia's isolated, buttoned-up neighbour Albania.

Interviewees were shy — no photographs and no surnames. "We are naturists, not exhibitionists," a blonde Austrian from Linz called Inge told Reuters. She was visiting Ada for the third time with her boyfriend.

"Why go nude? Why, it's most natural. Were you born with your clothes on?" replied a middle-aged and overweight German woman, unabashed about showing her wrinkles.

"Why do the most intimate parts of your body deserve to be kept imprisoned and hidden?" she added.

The International Naturism Federation counts Yugoslavia as one of Europe's top bare-all countries, along with West Germany. The federation groups together some 30 national associations and 800 clubs from around the world, claiming four million members.

But it reckons most nudists don't enroll and estimates there are 30 million naturists in the world.

It was not until the start of a tourist boom in the early 1960s that the Yugoslav Communist authorities let the first proper nudist colonies be established on the Adriatic peninsula of Istria, in Visar and Rovinj.

Now the 2,000-kilometre Yugoslavian coast, indented with discreet little bays, is dotted with sites reserved for naturists.

The biggest are at Koversada in Ursar, the world's second largest, at Medulin near Pula, and here at Ada Na Bojani.

"There are plenty of fig trees here but no one bothers to tear off a leaf," a Yugoslav tourism guide joked.

Yugoslavia earned \$1.3 billion

from tourism last year and it hopes to top \$1.6 billion in 1987. "We could earn far more if so many of our tourists weren't walking around without pock-

ets," said the tourism official. But Dragan Radinovic, chief receptionist on Ada said naturists stay longer than other tourists and spend lavishly.

Ada's 1,000-bed hotel complex is fully booked from April to October, he said. There is also a campsite big enough for 300 caravans.

Most of the naturists come from West Germany, Austria, The Netherlands, Italy and Sweden, but the number of Americans has increased, Radinovic said.

"It's mostly families with kids, and couples. Half return year after year. There are hardly any singles," he said.

The nudists entertain themselves with dancing, horse riding, fishing, yachting, surfing or picnics, said Radinovic.

Faced with a severe economic crisis, runaway 105 per cent inflation and a \$20 billion foreign debt, Yugoslavia has opened its borders wide to foreign tourists.



JUMBO TRACTOR: The PTS 1 tractor built by Krauss-Maffei in Munich to a Lufthansa design saves kerosene and is easier on the environment than taxiing aircraft round busy runways. It can tow a fully-laden Jumbo jet with ease to its starting position on the runway at Frankfurt International airport, Federal Republic of Germany (Photo: DaD/Deutsche Lufthansa AG)

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3,000 athletes seek glory at 10th Mediterranean Games in Latakia

Albania fields a team for the first time in the games history

LATAKIA, Syria (Agencies) — Athletes from 18 countries embark on a quest for glory on Saturday when competition opens in the 10th Mediterranean Games.

Minister of Youth Eid Dahiyat attended the opening ceremony, held at the Syrian sports city of Latakia.

The minister, who arrived in Damascus Thursday, expressed his happiness at attending the opening ceremony and paid tribute to Jordanian-Syrian cooperation in sports. The minister is accompanied on the visit by Mr. Mohammad Jamil Abul Tayyeb, director general of the Jordanian Youth Organisation.

The opening ceremony was

held Friday under the patronage of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

The two-week games start with preliminary rounds of the volleyball, tennis, swimming, diving and gymnastics events.

The men's and women's basketball tournaments kick off in Aleppo on Sunday with European champions Greece, Spain and Turkey likely to breeze past Tunisia, Syria and Lebanon in the men's competition.

The women's competition was

almost certain to be less exciting with Turkey expected to triumph over Albania, Syria and Lebanon, the only other participants.

The soccer tournament begins on September 15 with Morocco taking on Greece and Algeria clashing with France in group matches.

Other group matches will be held in Aleppo the following day with Turkey on Syria and Lebanon playing San Marino.

Morocco, surprise second-round qualifiers in last year's World Cup, and Algeria, another World Cup finalist, are allowed under international rules to field professional players in all tournaments.

The rule does not apply to footballers from Europe and South America. But France won the 1983 Mediterranean Games with a second string squad and could retain the title.

In the swimming competition, Italy, Yugoslavia, France and Greece were expected to dominate other participants. Tunisia and Egypt, in view of their impressive showing in the African Games last month in Nairobi, could get among the medals.

Syrian swimmers have spent three months in East Germany to prepare for games, but were not thought likely to pull off any surprises.

France, Italy, Spain, Algeria and Morocco are the strongest contenders for the athletics glory when competition begins on Sept. 19.

World champion and 1,500 and 5,000 metres record holder Said Aouita of Morocco has arrived in Latakia, but it was not clear

whether he would compete.

The weightlifting and wrestling events seemed destined to be dominated by Egypt, Turkey, France, Greece and Italy.

Albania for the first time will participate in the two-week festival.

The Albanians, slowly easing out of their isolationist stance, will send a team to the games, the 10th since they started in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1951.

The games are being held in this port city, known to Syrians as their "bride of the coast," which has been extensively beautified in preparation for the games.

Buildings gleam in the Mediterranean sun with a fresh coat of white paint.

Friday's opening ceremony featured 20,000 Syrian youngsters carrying flags and streamers and colour cards to make up vast tableaux on one side of the stadium.

Some 3,000 athletes will participate in 18 sports during the games.

Syria says it is determined to make the games the most impressive ever.

Egypt, Spain, Lebanon, Italy, Tunisia, Turkey, Algeria, Yugoslavia and Morocco have hosted games, which are held every four years. Athens will host the 1991 games.

Despite over 10 years of civil war, Lebanon has raised a contingent of 162 athletes to compete in the games.

But little is expected in the way of glory.

Swedes set up U.S. Open semifinal clash

NEW YORK (R) — Third seed Mats Wilander patiently outlasted an error-prone Miloslav Mecir 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, 7-6 on Thursday night to reach the last four of the U.S. Open tennis tournament.

In Saturday's semifinals, Wilander was scheduled to face compatriot Stefan Edberg, the 21-year-old Australian Open champion who is seeded second in this tournament.

Edberg defeated Ramesh Krishnan of India, the only unseeded player to reach the quarter-finals, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2, a contest that was far closer than the score suggests.

The turning point came in the 38-point third game of the second set, when Edberg fought off seven game points and finally capitalised on his 10th break point to go 3-0 up. He never looked back.

The three-and-a-half hour tussle between Wilander and fifth-seeded Mecir, last year's beaten finalist, was filled with lengthy baseline rallies as both players relied on finesse and shot placement rather than power.

Wilander abandoned his powerful two-handed backhand, which had been such a weapon in the early rounds. Instead he was content to patiently hit short slicing backhands from the baseline while waiting for the Czechoslovak to commit errors.

The strategy paid off, however, as a much less patient Mecir made 69 unforced errors.

Wilander was dangerous with his first serve, scoring with 11 aces, but Mecir was often able to control points on the Swede's weak second serve.

In the third and fourth sets, Mecir became more aggressive

TRIPLE AERIAL THRUST: Adduflin strikes Lu'ay (centre) leaps to score by a header into the goal. Al Arabi Club's Al Arabi net during a match played Thursday evening in the Premier Soccer League Championship. Adduflin thrashed Al Arabi Club 2-0 to bring its assets up to 14 points. Al Arabi Club's standing remained at 8 points.

Wanted English soccer fan jailed for 4 years

LIVERPOOL (Agencies) — An English soccer fan, wanted in Belgium on a manslaughter charge arising out of the 1985 Heysel Stadium riot, was jailed for four years Thursday for assaulting four people in a burger bar.

At Liverpool Crown Court, Anthony Hogan admitted one wounding and three assault charges arising out of an incident in downtown Liverpool in January.

But for Thursday's court appearance, Hogan, 24, would have been extradited to Belgium along with 25 other Liverpool fans, on manslaughter charges. They stem from the May 1985 riot, in which 39 mostly Italian people died, before the Liverpool-Juventus European Champions' Cup final at the Heysel Stadium, Brussels.

The other 25 are being held in a Brussels jail awaiting trial.

The British Home Office said that Hogan would be surrendered to the Belgian authorities after he

had served his sentence. With full remission that would be after two years eight months.

Peter Smith, prosecutor at Liverpool Crown Court, said Hogan, who had been drinking, went into a railway station burger bar and took a cup of tea from another customer. When the waitress complained, he grabbed her face, squeezing her cheek, and said: "I'll come back and kill you."

Hogan then picked up a teenage street cleaner and threw him out of the burger bar, Smith said. When the teenager's friend intervened, Hogan hit him in the face, knocking him unconscious, and when police arrived, he struck one officer in the eye.

Fresh prison riots in Belgium

In Brussels, riots erupted at another Belgian prison on Wednesday night after 25 British soccer fans arrived in the city to

stand trial for the Heysel Stadium riot, police said.

The latest trouble occurred at Merksplas jail in northern Belgium, where some 200 prisoners lit bonfires and smashed furniture during five hours of disturbances.

A police spokesman said one officer was seriously hurt as paramilitary police moved in to quell the riot and several prisoners escaped. Some were later recaptured.

Inmates at two Brussels jails rioted earlier this week over reports of preferential prison treatment planned for the fans.

The justice ministry said in a statement that eight other people were slightly hurt at Merksplas, a semi-open prison where inmates are allowed out to work during the day. It said the cause of the riot was not known.

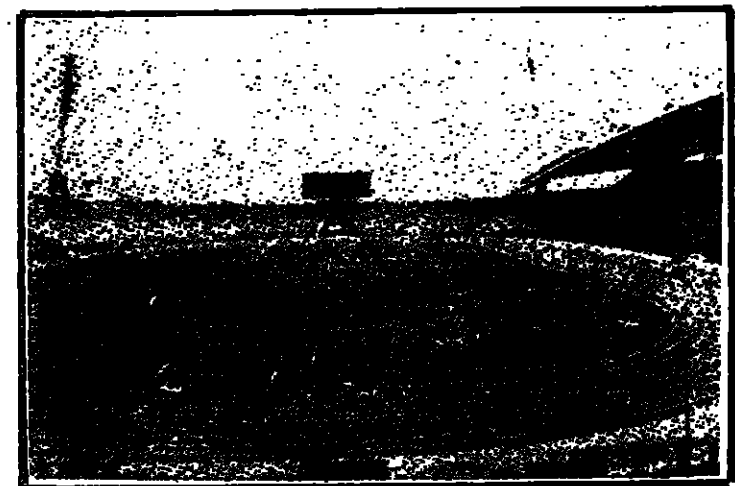
A ministry spokesman told Reuters the accused British fans, flown to Belgium on a military transport plane on Wednesday, had been transferred to the modern cells prepared for them at Louvain Central Prison outside Brussels.

He said the fans had been moved in small groups from the palace of justice after individual questioning by the magistrate investigating the Heysel disaster.

The operation appeared to have fooled journalists camped outside the law courts, who had been waiting for another large convoy of prison buses and police escorts.

The public prosecutor's office was due to reveal the preliminary charges filed by the magistrate for each of the Britons later on Thursday morning.

The most serious charge they could face is manslaughter, which carries a maximum penalty of 15 years prison.

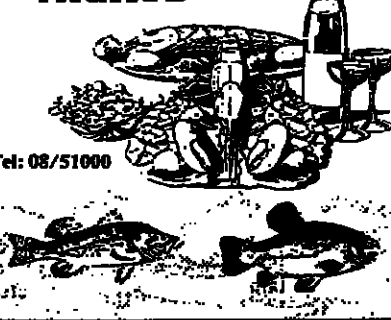


The main 45,000-seat stadium at Al-Assad Sports City where the opening ceremony was held Friday. The stadium, built by Soviet expertise, is surrounded by five huge arenas including 10 tennis courts, three swimming pools and 30 sports halls.

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White House to seek \$270m for contras Managua accuses U.S. of hurting Central American peace efforts

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (Agencies) — Vice President Sergio Ramirez accused the U.S. administration of "planting thorns in the way" of peace in Central America with its decision to seek \$270 million in new aid for the contra rebels.

Mr. Ramirez told a news conference in late Thursday that the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan was "boycotting" the efforts of the five Central American presidents who signed a peace plan last month in Guatemala City.

"It is incongruous that while the Central American countries are set on taking the direction of peace ... the U.S. administration so clearly wants to destroy those peace efforts, planting thorns in the way and boycotting this effort," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz told Congress Thursday the administration would ask for \$270 million in aid to the contras for an 18-month period.

He said the additional aid was

to ensure that Nicaragua complied with terms of the new peace plan.

"If the Guatemalan agreement is to be implemented in a way that secures a negotiated ceasefire, a democratic opening in Nicaragua, and accommodation of basic national security interests ... the United States must continue to furnish support to the freedom fighters," Mr. Shultz said.

Congress last year approved \$100 million in military and non-lethal aid to the rebels, who are fighting the Sandinista government which in July 1979 ousted Anastasio Somoza.

Nicaragua's defence minister, Humberto Ortega, brother of President Daniel Ortega, also cal-

led the U.S. decision "a boycott of the peace efforts by the Central American presidents."

On Radio Sandino, the voice of the ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front, Mr. Ortega said, "not with \$500 million will the U.S. government be able to avoid the total defeat" of the contras.

Mr. Ramirez said despite the planned request for fresh contra aid, the Sandinista government would continue taking steps to comply with the peace agreement.

"We are not going to withdraw from fulfilling the agreements," he said.

The peace plan calls for a ceasefire in Central America's warring countries, amnesties, democratic reforms and an end to foreign aid for rebel forces, all to be implemented by Nov. 7.

Earlier, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto complained in a note to Mr. Shultz about "new acts of aggression ... with the intention of boycotting the peace agreement."

"The government of the United States has continued pushing its illegal policy of intervention and force against Nicaragua," the note said.

Specifically, Mr. D'Escoto protested a rebel attack Monday on a La Patria farming cooperative in Jinotega province, 200 kilometres north of the capital of Managua.

He said seven civilians were killed in the attack, and houses and health and supply centres were destroyed.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Mr. Shultz's announcement did not break Mr. Reagan's commitment to Speaker of the House Jim Wright.

"We maintain our commitment to Speaker Wright not to submit an aid request before the 30th," he said, adding that it could go up on that date. He said Mr. Shultz's statement was necessary because Congress wanted to know administration intent on contra aid and "we had to be honest with them."

Mr. Shultz said the aid was needed to help the contras fight the Sandinista government, which he said was "a threat to the peace process."

Burundi reopens frontier, airport

BUJUMBURA (R) — The Military Committee for National Salvation which seized power in Burundi on Sept. 3 reopened the frontiers and international airport of this central African state on Friday and ordered external telephone and telex links to be fully restored.

The formal ending of eight days of isolation from the rest of the world was announced in an official statement by the committee, headed by Maj. Pierre Buyoya.

The statement also announced an easing of a 7 p.m. to 5.30 a.m.

curfew, in force since the bloodless coup which deposed President Jean-Baptiste Bagaza. The curfew will henceforth apply from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.

The reopening of Burundi's external communications followed a meeting Thursday between Maj. Buyoya and the leaders of two neighbouring states — President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana — in the east Zairean town of Gombe.

Burundi reopened its international telex lines to the world for incoming traffic on Monday and

its international telephone links have also functioned intermittently since then.

Land frontiers, international airports and ports on Lake Tanganyika had been closed since the coup.

The new government, which is expected by diplomats to be more pro-Western than its predecessor, did not give any reasons for sealing off Burundi for so long after what appears to have been a completely bloodless coup.

Diplomats in East Africa said the new authorities may have been nervous over the intentions of deposed President Bagaza, who was attending a Francophone summit in Canada at the time of the coup.

Col. Bagaza tried unsuccessfully to return home and ended up in Uganda.

Col. Bagaza's aides in Kampala said the former president was negotiating for permission to return home as an ordinary citizen.

Mandela reportedly refused inclusion in prisoner swap

PARIS (R) — Jailed South African black leader Nelson Mandela refused to be included in a southern Africa prisoner exchange on Monday, a French newspaper has said.

The independent daily Liberation, without identifying its sources, said South Africa had proposed to Angola that Mandela, the African National Congress (ANC) leader jailed 25 years ago for life, be a part of the exchange.

Dr. Mandela personally refused the offer and the ANC also rejected it. Luanda, according to the paper, considered the suggestion "indecent" because it would have swapped the black leader for a South African army captain captured during an Angolan raid.

The swap in the Mozambique capital Maputo brought freedom for the commando officer in return for the release of a French teacher jailed in a South African homeland, a Dutch fugitive in his country's Pretoria embassy and 133 Angolan prisoners of war.

South African President P. W. Botha publicly suggested in Janu-

ary 1986 that Mandela be exchanged for the officer, Maj. Wynand Du Toit, if the Soviet Union released dissidents Andrei Sakharov and Anatoly Shcharansky.

Dr. Mandela, Liberation said, refused the offer of freedom because of conditions set by South Africa and because Mr. Botha would not legalise the ANC.

The daily added that after Dr. Mandela refused to take part, France stepped in to negotiate the freedom of Pierre-Andre Albertini, imprisoned in the Ciskei homeland for refusing to respond to South African accusations of involvement in gun-running.

It said some participants in the prisoner swap found the "deal of success" in Paris "a little indecent ... particularly the home-

French prestige at stake in New Caledonian independence vote

NOUMEA, New Caledonia (R) — France puts its prestige on the line this weekend when New Caledonians vote on independence for the troubled French Pacific territory.

The odds are that Sunday's poll will leave the French flag still flying over the sun-baked South Sea islands.

But other countries will closely watch the conditions and turnout of the vote to judge whether it can ease tensions bubbling below the surface of what tourist brochures describe as an "island paradise."

Already under attack from South Pacific nations for staging nuclear tests in the area, Paris has been put in the dock for refusing to put with one of the last remnants of its empire despite pleas for independence from indigenous Kanaks.

France broke off ministerial contacts with Australia early this year, saying Canberra was behind a United Nations vote by 89 nations in December to have New Caledonia related as a non-self-governing territory.

But the alarm bells really sounded in Paris last month when economic giant Japan said the Sept. 13 referendum might whip up racial tension in the territory.

Spiralling violence in 1984 and 1985 between separatist Kanaks and staunch pro-French loyalists, most of them white, caused more than 30 deaths, a rash of looting and burning of homes and an economic catastrophe.

It also left unhealed wounds, driving an even deeper wedge between the rural Kanak population and the white settlers and Asian immigrants who thrive in the prosperous palm-lined capital of Noumea.

In an effort to dampen the strain, France's former ruling Socialist two years ago gave the Kanaks, who make up 43 per cent of the population, a greater say in regional government and promised a referendum on independence in association with France.

The formula horrified the loyalists to France. They said it was biased in favour of the Kanak minority and feared they would soon have to pack their bags and go.

But the plan was dropped 18 months later by Conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac.

U.S. Marine convicted of dereliction

WASHINGTON (R) — Marine Sergeant Robert Stufflebeam was cleared on Thursday night of having sex with Soviet prostitutes while serving as a guard at the U.S. embassy in Moscow but was found guilty of dereliction of duty.

Stufflebeam, 24, could be sentenced to a maximum of a year in prison after being found guilty of two counts of dereliction of duty of frequenting an off-limits Moscow bar and taking subordinates there, said a Marine spokesman.

The spokesman said an eight-member court martial panel found Stufflebeam innocent of the more serious charges of having sex with Soviet prostitutes and lying about it to navy investigators.

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Philippine Central Bank governor, others resign

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The government on Friday announced the resignations of the Central Bank governor and eight other senior officials after news reports President Corason Aquino would replace her controversial executive secretary and at least three cabinet members.

The resignations and replacements followed last month's failed coup and came amid the deepest political crisis facing the 54-year-old president.

In a nationwide television appearance late Thursday, Mrs. Aquino appealed to Filipinos for support in healing rifts during her 18-month rule.

"I need you badly," she said, calling for support in a power struggle involving both military and big business factions.

Spokesman Teodoro Benigno said Jose Fernandez, a holdover from ousted President Ferdinand Marcos' administration, had resigned as Central Bank governor and as a member of the government monetary board.

As bank governor, Mr. Fernandez oversaw the operations of every bank. His office controlled the amount of money in circulation and wielded great influence over all monetary policy.

Mrs. Aquino has said she will

announce replacements by the weekend.

Several Manila newspapers and private television stations reported Friday that Mrs. Aquino would replace Mr. Joker Arroyo, the executive secretary who was among the 25 cabinet members who resigned Wednesday. The news reports said the president would also replace Economic Planning Secretary Solita Monsod, Finance Secretary Jaime Ongpin and Public Works Secretary Vicente Jayme.

The Manila Chronicle quoted an unidentified "ranking official" in the House of Representatives as saying Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos would retire and be offered the public works post.

Gen. Ramos, 59, said Thursday he had "long ago" told the president he was ready to retire anytime she wished. Some reports also said Trade Secretary Jose Concepcion would also be replaced.

Mr. Benigno also said Tax Commissioner Bienvenido Tan, Customs Chief Alexander Padilla, and Immigration Commissioner Enrique Joaquin had also resigned. In addition to Mr. Fernandez, Mr. Benigno said the rest of the monetary board also stepped down.

Pakistani aide dismisses Afghan peace initiative

GENEVA (R) — Pakistan has blasted a much-heralded peace initiative by Afghanistan, calling it a propaganda ploy to diffuse criticism about the continued presence of 115,000 Soviet troops in the country.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told reporters after four days of United Nations-sponsored talks in Geneva.

"They (Kabul) called us to this meeting at short notice and the request was accompanied by indications that something substantial was in the offing."

But no offer came during the first two days, and then Kabul said it was willing to trim a timetable for the departure of some 115,000 Soviet troops to 16 months from 18, he said.

After all the trumpeting about a new timetable for Soviet withdrawal, Mr. Yaqub Khan said he arrived expecting a dramatic breakthrough.

"On arrival, we expected, in view of the prelude, proposals which would be substantial, serious and intended to overcome the remaining obstacles. We were disappointed," he said.

Pakistan made a counter offer for Soviet troops to leave within eight months of the signing of a U.N. peace plan but Kabul then called off the meeting. At the previous round in March, Islamabad wanted the Soviet troops out in seven months.

Mr. Yaqub Khan said the Afghan delegation gave no explanation for why it made the surprise request.

Mystery surrounds guns used in Oslo siege

OSLO (R) — Guns seen and fired during a siege at the Iranian embassy in Oslo may not have belonged to the attackers as first reported, police said Friday.

When the three-hour siege ended on Thursday with the surrender of 11 Iranian leftists who had stormed the embassy and held seven people hostage, diplomats derided police access to the building and refused to be questioned.

"We cannot confirm our earlier reports that the guns used belonged to the attackers, as we found no weapons on them," a police spokesman told Reuters.

He said police would not, as they had earlier said, make a second request for access, but gave no reason.

Reporters outside the embassy during the siege, in which an Iranian diplomat was killed, heard one shot before the attackers surrendered with their hostages. Police said they had seen men with pistols through the windows of the embassy.

Asked whether police believed

the Iranian embassy could have contained guns before the attack, the spokesman said:

"That is pure speculation, on which I cannot comment."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Per Paust told Reuters that, according to international law, embassies are sovereign national territory and that Norway has no jurisdiction over them.

"It's entirely their business what they want to keep there," he said.

No one at the embassy could be reached for comment on Friday, but the injured Iranian charge d'affaires, Mohammad Hadi Ardebili, told Norwegian state radio in an interview that there were no guns in the mission.

"We have no weapons in the embassy and cannot defend ourselves," he said.

He sharply criticised police handling of the siege, in line with comments broadcast on Tehran Radio on Thursday which said they had acted "very irresponsibly in the face of the terrorists' invasion."

Security around the Iranian mission had been stepped up at the embassy's request following the incident, and Norway's Tehran embassy was under guard, though this was not requested by Norway, Norwegian Radio said.

The Oslo siege appeared to have been part of a coordinated protest in several European cities by opponents of Iran, led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. This included attacks on Iranian airline offices in Paris and Frankfurt.

Only one of the attackers — 10 men and a woman — claimed to live in Norway. The others told police they lived in Sweden, West Germany and France.

They were charged on Friday with detaining people against their will and further charges may follow, police said.

The 11 are still being questioned along with embassy employees

Moscow rules out amnesty for Rust

MOSCOW (R) — Teenage West German pilot Mathias Rust, sentenced last week to four years in labour camp for his flight to Red Square, will not be released under a recent Kremlin amnesty, a Soviet spokesman has said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told a news conference that Rust's case did not fall within the amnesty, announced in June in connection with November's 70th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution.

Mr. Gerasimov said the amnesty applied only to people who had served at least one-third of their terms.

Rust, 19, was found guilty by the Soviet Supreme Court of violating international flight rules, illegally crossing the border and committing malicious hooliganism for his May 28 flight from

Helsinki to Moscow.

He is expected to apply for a Kremlin pardon, which may be granted regardless of his eligibility for the amnesty.

Mr. Gerasimov said Rust had not yet requested a pardon. He confirmed that the youth was still awaiting transfer to labour camp from Moscow's Lefortovo Military Prison, where he has been held since his flight.

Canadian Liberals win Ontario elections

TORONTO, Canada (AP) — Ontario voters gave Premier David Peterson's Liberal government a landslide victory in provincial elections that focused on a proposed Canadian free trade pact with the United States.

It was the first Liberal majority in 50 years in Ontario, Canada's most populous province with more than 6 million eligible voters. The Liberals have been cool toward the proposed trade pact.

Mr. Peterson called the general election as leader of a two-year-old minority government.

Early returns from the Thursday election showed the Liberals leading in or having won outright 96 seats in the 130-seat provincial legislature. Sixty-six seats were needed to win a clear majority.

The Socialist New Democratic Party led in 17 seats, and the Progressive Conservatives led in 12.

A record 495 candidates ran in the 130 districts, an increase of five seats from the previous legislature in which the Liberals had 51 seats, Conservatives 50, and New Democrats 23. There was

one vacancy.

Computer projections said the Liberals would take about 50 per cent of the vote, with the Conservatives and New Democrats neck-and-neck for the other half.

For the Conservatives, who governed Ontario from 1943 to 1985, the election was a disaster. Party leader Larry Grossman lost his own district in Toronto to a Liberal, and other Tory seats held for a century also fell.

The New Democrats appeared headed to take over as the official opposition in Ontario.

But the results were a bed omen for Federal Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, whose Conservative government is languishing third in national polls.

It was Mr. Mulroney's idea to seek a comprehensive free trade pact with the United States to prevent the U.S. protectionist surge from harming the world's largest trading partnership.

Mr. Grossman fully backed the federal initiative in the campaign, while the New Democrats were totally opposed to free trade on the grounds it could cost jobs in

the brewery, textile, farming and other industries.

Mr. Peterson, 43, a charismatic figure whose wife is an actress, ran a low-key campaign after losing an initial television debate in the 40-day campaign.

But at country fairs, picnics and barbecues, middle-aged women scrambled for autographs from the grey-haired premier, who promised to improve teaching and equipment in the schools, clean up Lake Ontario and make it easier for people to buy their first homes.

For Mr. Peterson, the victory may have seemed inconceivable two years ago when the 1985 election returned a minority Conservative government, which quickly collapsed.

Mr. Peterson convinced National Democratic leader Bob Rae to support a Liberal minority government, and he took office as premier on June 26, 1985.

He chose to seek a full mandate, and a majority government, in order to defend Ontario's interests in any free trade deal with Washington.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Poll shows most priests want to marry

NEW YORK (R) — Most U.S. Catholic parish priests would like to be able to marry but are evenly divided on the ordination of women and advice on artificial birth control, a poll published on Friday shows. A telephone poll conducted for the New York Times and the CBS Television Network showed 55 per cent of priests favoured allowing priests to marry while 43 per cent were opposed. Those interviewed were split 43 per cent to 43 per cent for and against ordination by 56 to 39 per cent. Asked if there were circumstances in which priests should counsel artificial birth control, 47 per cent said there were and 45 per cent said there were not. While 24 per cent said they favoured its use, 64 per cent of all American Catholics support artificial birth control, the Times reported. Results of the poll were published in Friday's editions of the Times, one day after Pope John Paul II arrived in Miami for a nine-city tour of the United States. According to the poll, 63 per cent of the priests rated Pope John Paul as less effective than Pope John XXIII and almost half said his personal moral attitudes were more conservative than their own. Four priests thought Pope John Paul was a liberal. The poll selected a random sample of 855 priests from the nation's approximate 30,000.

More young Americans delaying marriage

WASHINGTON (R) — More and more young Americans are putting off marriage in their 20s and even in their early 30s, the census bureau reported on Wednesday. "The percentage of people in their 20s who have never married has grown dramatically since 1970," the bureau said in its yearly report on U.S. households, marital status and living arrangements. While most Americans eventually will marry, the agency said, the percentage of unmarried people grew significantly among those aged 30 to 34. A bureau spokesman said: "Most likely, education and career goals are taking precedence over family and marriage. But it's also a matter of simple economics. 'Young people are simply staying at home longer — and in some cases, not ever leaving home — as the cost of setting up a household becomes more and more expensive," he added. The bureau said that in this year's survey of U.S. households it found that 78 per cent of American men aged 20 to 24 had never married compared to 69 per cent in 1980 and 55 per cent in 1970. Among women 20 to 24 years old, 61 per cent were unmarried compared to 50 per cent in 1980 and 36 per cent in 1970. Among men 30 to 34 years old, 23 per cent were unmarried compared to 16 per cent in 1980. Of women aged 30 to 34, 15 per cent were unmarried, compared to 10 per cent in 1980.

Reagan catches wayward papal cap

MIAMI (R) — President Reagan made an athletic, one-handed catch of Pope John Paul's cap when it blew off during welcoming ceremonies. The Pope had just started his arrival speech on a raised platform at Miami airport when a sudden gust of wind blew the skull cap, known as a zucchetto, off the Pope's head. Zucchetto means "little squish" in Italian. The 76-year-old Reagan, a former baseball announcer who was standing on the platform, flung out his right hand and caught the cap. Mr. Reagan nonchalantly held the cap behind his back while the Pope continued his speech bareheaded. At the end of the speech Mr. Reagan handed the cap to an aide who returned it to John Paul.

Smoking hits record low in U.S.

ATLANTA (R) — Cigarette smoking among U.S. adults has plunged to its lowest recorded level ever, with slightly more than one in four Americans sharing the habit, the federal government has reported. A survey conducted last year among 13,031 adults nationwide found that 26.5 per cent smoked, continuing a downward trend that began in the late 1960s. From 1944 to the mid-1960s, about 40 per cent of adults smoked, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported, with the highest incidence recorded in a 1949 survey, when 44 per cent of the adult population acknowledged smoking. The CDC said 29.5 per cent of American men and 23.8 per cent of the women said they smoked, while 28.4 per cent of blacks and 26.4 per cent of whites described themselves as smokers. The highest rate was among men aged 35 to 44, with smokers representing 37.1 per cent of the sample. According to the report, men typically smoked 22.8 cigarettes a day, while women puffed an average of 19.1.

Peasants 'execute' mentally ill man

PEKING (R) — Chinese newspapers announced death sentences for an assortment of criminals on Friday but warned peasants against taking the law into their own hands after peasants "executed" an insane man by drowning him in a manure pit. China Legal News said three villagers had been arrested in Hubei province, central China, for inciting the kangaroo trial and execution. Mentally ill Zhu Anquang was judged by a court made up of members of 25 village households after he beat and tied up several residents, the newspaper said. The peasants